

# STARS AND STRIPES®

**Breaking past  
the military's  
color code**  
Scene magazine

Purnell Stewart, circa 1946



**Army's Grafenwöhr  
basing project  
going at full speed**  
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New York  
Mets pitcher  
Pedro Martinez

**Teams head to  
spring training  
chasing Red Sox**  
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Volume 63, No. 300 © SS 2005 G

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2005

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## DOD: Fewer gays being discharged since 9/11

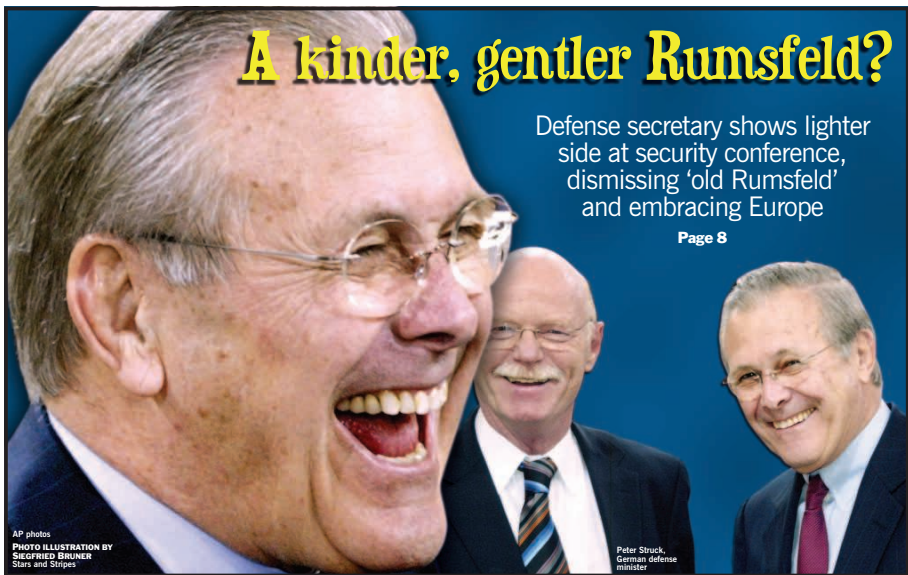
Every branch reporting decline in 'homosexual separations'

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### A kinder, gentler Rumsfeld?

Defense secretary shows lighter side at security conference, dismissing 'old Rumsfeld' and embracing Europe

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AP photos  
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY  
SIEGFRIED BRUNER  
Stars and Stripes

Peter Struck,  
German defense  
minister

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## NewsTracker ... What's new with old news

## States

**Same-sex marriage support:** Mass. Attorney General Thomas Reilly, who played a key role in state efforts to fight the legalization of gay marriage a year ago, now says he favors same-sex marriage and will oppose any efforts to ban it. Reilly, an unannounced Democratic candidate for governor, told *The Boston Globe* he was "moved" by the same-sex marriages that took place after gay marriage was legalized on May 17.

**Fla. right-to-die battle:** A judge in a contentious right-to-die battle has refused to reconsider his ruling allowing a man to remove the feeding tube keeping his brain-damaged wife alive.

Circuit Court Judge George Greer rejected arguments by Terri Schiavo's parents that their daughter's due process rights were violated because she never had her own attorney.

Friday's decision could pave the way for the tube to be removed during the coming weeks. A stay preventing the removal is to be lifted Feb. 22, according to Michael Schiavo's lawyer.

**Church sex abuse scandal:** Four priests accused of sexually abusing children have been defrocked by the Vatican, the Boston Archdiocese said.

Robert D. Fay, Kelvin Iguabita, Bernard Lane and Robert Ward are "no longer in the clerical state," meaning they can no longer function as priests and will no longer receive any financial support from the Boston Archdiocese, the archdiocese announced Friday.

**Accused priest's trial:** A former altar boy who shot and wounded a defrocked priest testified that pats on the back from the priest led to sexual molestation.

Using explicit language and demonstrating with gestures, Dontee Stokes, 29, testified Friday that he was "in disbelief" and "disgusted" when Maurice Blackwell began sexually abusing him in 1989.

Blackwell is charged with four counts of child sex abuse. Stokes served home detention for accusing him on a city street in 2002 and shooting him.

**Jimmy Hoffa investigation:** The FBI said Friday it had completed a DNA analysis of evidence that could help solve the 30-year-old mystery of the disappearance of Teamsters leader Jimmy Hoffa and submitted a report to Detroit police.

But Bloomfield Township police and Oakland County prosecutors, who are investigating the case, said they were not even aware the analysis was finished. The FBI would not release details of the analysis.

Hoffa last was seen on July 30, 1975, at a restaurant in Bloomfield Township.

**McDonald's settlement:** McDonald's Corp. will pay \$8.5 million to settle a lawsuit accusing the fast-food giant of failing to inform consumers of delays in a plan to reduce fat in the cooking oil used for its popular french fries and other foods.

BanTransFats.com, a nonprofit advocacy group, sued McDonald's in California in 2003, alleging the company did not effectively dis-



**Marines killed in Iraq:** Military gear from Capt. Lyle Gordon, Capt. Paul Alaniz, Staff Sgt. Dexter Kimble and Lance Cpl. Tony Hernandez are placed inside Airman Memorial Chapel during the memorial services for the men at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in California, Friday. The Marines were killed along with 27 others in a helicopter crash in Iraq, Jan. 26.

close to the public that it had not switched to a healthier cooking oil. In September 2002, McDonald's announced it would lower trans fat in its cooking oils and said the switch would be completed in five months. In February 2003, McDonald's announced a delay.

**CIA leak probe:** Attorney General Alberto Gonzales has stepped aside from the Justice Department investigation into the leak of an undercover CIA officer's identity.

Gonzales had been involved in the case as White House legal counsel, testifying before a federal grand jury and giving advice about it to White House personnel.

He recused himself from the matter shortly after he was sworn in as attorney general last week, Justice Department spokeswoman Tasia Sciolino said Friday.

**Space shuttle repair:** Astronauts on the first space shuttle flight since the Columbia tragedy will practice three methods for patching holes in orbit and have another two repair kits on hand in case their ship is actually damaged by launch debris this spring.

In announcing the decision Friday, NASA said some of the hole-plugging techniques would almost certainly be tested on the second post-Columbia mission as well, later in the year.

On Thursday, the seven astronauts who will take off aboard *Discovery* as early as mid-May said they still were waiting to hear which repair techniques they would fly.

Top NASA officials will make a final ruling on the matter this Friday.

## World

**European constitution proposal:** French President Jacques Chirac said Friday that the proposed European constitution would greatly bolster the bloc's foreign policy and allow it to avert serious divisions like those suffered over the Iraq war.

"I don't think we will face a crisis like that caused by the Iraq war once we have the constitution up and running," he told a meet-

ing he attended with Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero in Barcelona to promote the new charter.

**Palestinian deportees to return:** Israel has agreed to repatriate dozens of Palestinians it expelled from the West Bank during the Palestinian uprising, an adviser to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Saturday, disclosing the latest measure building on this week's cease-fire.

## Military

**Carrier hearing:** Testimony by the Navy's top admiral at a Senate committee hearing may add an effort to save the Florida-based aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy from the scrap heap, U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson said Friday.

Adm. Vernon Clark, the Navy's chief of staff, Thursday confirmed the Kennedy, berthed at Mayport Naval Station near Jacksonville, is the previously unidentified carrier earmarked for retirement, said Nelson, D-Fla.

## War on terrorism

**Prisoner abuse trial:** A CIA contractor charged with beating an Afghan detainee who later died was protecting the nation against terrorists and should not be prosecuted because he was following directives from the president and his administration, his lawyers argued in filings released this week.

Lawyers for David A. Passaro, a former Army Special Forces soldier from North Carolina who was hired as a CIA contractor, also contended that the alleged beating of Abdul Wali occurred outside the jurisdiction of U.S. courts.

Passaro was charged in June with four counts of assault, accused of beating Wali with his hands, feet and a flashlight as he tried to get information about rocket attacks on U.S. forces.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

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# DOD: Fewer gay GIs dismissed since 9/11

BY EVELYN NIEVES  
AND ANN SCOTT TYSON

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The number of gay and lesbian soldiers discharged under the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy has dropped by almost half since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and are at the lowest levels since the Department of Defense began keeping such figures in 1997.

Significant declines have occurred in every branch of the armed forces, according to the statistics released Friday by the Defense Department. The Marine

Corps, Air Force and Navy discharged fewer gay and lesbian soldiers in 2004 than in any year since the Pentagon began tallying the number of its "homosexual separations" eight years ago.

The Army's discharges represented the lowest number of discharges in five years.

Overall, the total number of soldiers discharged under the law banning gays and lesbians in the military has dropped from a high of 1,227 in 2001 to 653 in 2004.

A Defense spokeswoman declined comment on the statistics, referring questions to the individual services. Spokespersons for

the services said they were hard pressed to single out a specific reason for the decline.

"Obviously, it's a very controversial issue," said Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferly, a spokesman for the personnel office in the Army, which, in relation to the total size of each of the services, had the highest proportion of gays departing last year. "I just got the figures and I don't know why" they fell.

Gay rights organizations said the decline was easy to explain: Pressed for personnel since the war on terror began, the military needs soldiers and so isn't discharging homosexuals.

It may be more subtle than

that, however, said Charles Moskos, professor emeritus of military sociology at Northwestern University and an architect of the "don't ask, don't tell" concept.

He said the vast majority of discharges for violations of "don't ask, don't tell" come when soldiers volunteer their sexual orientation to their superiors. A central reason for the decline may be that gays are not telling of their sexual orientation as frequently since 2000, Moskos said in an interview.

Given the current stress on military services, he said, individuals who say they are gay may not be immediately granted an honorable discharge.

Groups that advocate for an abolishment of "don't ask, don't tell" said the new figures point out the hypocrisy of the military's position that homosexuals are bad for morale, given that gays and lesbians are less likely to be discharged in times of war, when soldiers are needed most.

"The numbers are down because in a time of war, we need the best and the brightest that we can get. And the best and brightest include gay soldiers," said Sharon Alexander, a lawyer for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, an advocacy group for homosexuals in the military.

## Army's expansion of Grafenwöhr in full swing

BY BEN MURRAY

Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany — While some military communities around Europe contemplate their fate after the announcement of a \$430 million military construction proposal for Europe in 2006, Army officials at the Grafenwöhr training area have a different concern.

As the home to the Army's largest development project in Europe — a colossal \$600 million to \$700 million effort to transform an isolated training base into the region's flagship installation — officials here wonder just how fast they can expand.

Around the base, cranes rise above half-finished buildings, workers toil around heaps of debris, and the din of construction competes with the sound of live artillery fire that is Grafenwöhr's trademark.

The work is part of what is called Efficient Basing Grafenwöhr, or EBG, a 10-year project to enlarge the 1,200-soldier garrison into a brigade-size facility that base officials say will be home to the bulk of the Army's presence in Europe.

Last month, while other installations in Germany waited for word on their take in the 2006 budget, the once-modest training outpost in northern Bavaria started this calendar year with plans to spend more than \$190 million on construction projects, said EBG spokeswoman Susanne Bartsch. The plans dwarf other Army projects in Europe.

Last week, planners said the massive project is on schedule and on budget to hit its 2009 completion date, even though they no longer know exactly for whom they're building the facility.

When conceived in 2000, Bartsch said, EBG was intended to accommodate elements of the 1st Armored Division. Now, it looks like the heavy division is headed back to the States.

While it has been widely speculated that a light, mechanized Stryker Brigade will take the 1st AD's place, Bartsch said official word on that decision isn't expected until April or May.

EBG planners, however, said this week that it doesn't really matter who eventually gets stationed at Grafenwöhr because the rebuilt base has been designed to facilitate almost any brigade-sized force in the Army.

The original plan for the expansion has essentially remained intact, said EBG plans analysis and integration officer Dwayne Watsek.

By the end of the project, the developed area abutting the 57,000-acre artillery range and training area will double in size as the population quadruples. About 50



BEN MURRAY/Stars and Stripes

**Builder at the Grafenwöhr, Germany, training area work Tuesday on a wall of what will become the base dining facility. The renovation is part of the expansive Efficient Basing Grafenwöhr project that will double the size of the installation over the next several years.**

new buildings including a post exchange/commissary mall, a 135-room hotel and a dining facility will be built, and 100 other buildings will be renovated, Bartsch said.

With 3,500 active-duty soldiers and 5,000 family members expected to start arriving as early as next year, the Army also is overseeing the construction of 1,600 family homes in surrounding German communities. Of those, 800 will be clustered in an area called Netzbarg, which will contain

two new schools, a chapel, youth services buildings and a store.

The homes will be constructed in a build-to-lease program, in which the Army finds an investor to build the houses under the promise that it will rent them when they are finished — at a cost of \$20 million a year when all 1,600 are done, Watsek said.

One of the biggest recent alterations to the EBG budget was a decision by the Army to spend \$43 million to build the infrastructure of Netzbarg while it is still in

### More capital projects on tap

Major projects in Efficient Basing Grafenwöhr:

- New 135-room lodging facility;
- New fitness center with three baseball diamonds, tennis courts and an outdoor track;
- New dining facility;
- New brigade headquarters building, vehicle maintenance facility, administrative buildings;
- Renovated and expanded access gates;
- 1,600 leased family homes at a total annual cost of \$20 million.

### Military outlays for 2005

Breakdown of the bulk of Grafenwöhr's \$196 million 2005 construction budget (estimates):

- New post exchange and commissary: \$35 million;
- New elementary and middle schools: \$35 million;
- Four new barracks: \$12.5 million each;
- Utilities and infrastructure for Netzbarg community: \$43 million;
- New health and dental clinic: \$11 million;
- New child development and youth center: \$15 million.

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Europe District

talks with an investor for the project, Watsek said.

"There is a planned investor," Watsek said, but a deal has not been signed on the project, prompting the Army to start the construction of the utilities.

The \$43 million, Watsek said, is money that will be recouped when it signs a service deal with the eventual owner of the utilities, which will likely be the local German government.

The Grafenwöhr government and other municipalities in the area have supported the expansion plan, EBG planners said, going so far as adopting new zoning and speeding up permit processes to aid the

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# Retired airman questions force protection

BY SANDRA JONTZ  
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — When a radar tagged John Thomas drove 95 kilometers per hour on a highway in Belluno, he admitted his guilt by paying the \$50-euro fine.

Then came notice from the "ufficio del prefetto," equivalent to a provincial chief of police, informing him that his driving privilege in Italy was suspended for 30 days. The letter ordered him to surrender his U.S. driver's license and that's where he says a potential nightmare begins.

At the local Carabinieri office on Aviano Air Base, he had to furnish personal information such as Social Security number, birth date, birthplace, work and home address — information Italian authorities collect and store in a database.

## Italian system raises man's worries about identity theft

"It's a force protection issue for me," said the 41-year-old Air Force retiree, now a construction project inspector at Aviano for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

With his military and civilian careers combined, he has lived in Italy for 22 years.

"I'm fluent in Italian. I read the papers, watch the news. I know what's going on," he said. "There's a constant battle over terrorist movements here, just like in other countries. There are [people with] anti-American sentiments here. With information in a huge database, how are they going to prevent our information from falling in the hands of someone who doesn't like us?"

"Our own people can't be trusted, so how can we expect the host

nation to protect us?" he said, citing, as an example, the sentencing last month of a 22-year-old contract clerk at the Pentagon for selling credit card numbers and identity information of Air Force personnel in exchange for drugs.

But the sharing of information with local authorities is not a concern, said Lia Scandola, Aviano's traffic safety manager.

"If you can't trust police forces, who can you trust?" Scandola asked. "They're not going to share it with anyone."

The U.S. military takes steps to protect servicemembers' personal information, but if you break the law, you're subject to the laws of the host nation, said Cmdr. Kenneth O'Rourke, executive officer for Judge Advocate General at Naval Support Activity Naples.

"They're getting data the same

way as the sheriff in Podunk County would get it," he said.

"There is just certain information that is releasable to local authorities or that you have to supply to them. And if you break the law, you give your name and address and personal information to the local authorities."

The Italian government recently began creating a database of all drivers' information, whether Italian or not. A recent change in Italian law that requires authorities to deduct points from a driver's record instead of the record of the registered vehicle owner helped spur creation of the database.

Drivers with Italian licenses begin with 20 points on their records, with points deducted if they commit infractions. If they reach zero, licenses are revoked.

Americans aren't governed by

the point system, even if their information is inputted in the database when ticketed for driving infractions. What that means is that Italian authorities cannot permanently revoke a U.S. citizen's driving privilege. But they can suspend it, Scandola said.

Americans are not on the point system because they are not issued Italian driver's licenses.

Instead, they receive translation sheets of their U.S. driver's license, said Lt. Daniele Hakome, foreign criminal jurisdiction officer at NSA Naples.

The translation sheet, which must be carried with the driver's license, contains information such as license issue and expiration dates, the driver's command, height, weight, hair and eye color, and Social Security number. This is the information that must be turned over to Italian authorities if the license is suspended.

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## Medal of Honor vet visits Lakenheath



RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

Bob Patterson, left, who was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Vietnam War, presents Airman Vincent Pizzolo of the 48th Fighter Wing with a certificate Friday at RAF Lakenheath, England. Patterson, who is a service representative for the Department of Veterans Affairs, spoke during the completion ceremony of the First Term Airman Center, a weeklong orientation course at the base. Patterson is a former command sergeant major of the Army.

## Italian to give piece of liver to mother-in-law

Stars and Stripes

A local national employee at Camp Darby, Italy, is taking several months off work to donate a part of his liver to his American mother-in-law.

Raniero Marti has already left his job as a painter at Field Support Battalion-Livorno, and is in New York undergoing screening before the planned operation.

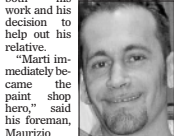
Marti, who has only been working for the U.S. military since Dec. 1, is married to an Italian whose mother holds citizenship from both countries and lives in the United States. When she contracted hepatitis C, her children were screened but were found not to be matched.

Marti, who reportedly has never met his mother-in-law, was.

"For me, it is just a natural consequence of the situation, knowing that her life depends on me does not give me a choice," Marti said last week at a ceremony honoring him on base.

"I am excited, confused, embarrassed at the moment. It is going to be long and difficult, but I strongly believe in God and he guides me through these choices."

Marti, who couldn't be reached for additional comment, drew praise from his supervisors for both his work and his decision to help out his relative.



"Marti immediately became the paint shop hero," said his foreman, Maurizio Franco. "He is not only a true professional, willing to learn the job. He also acquired in only two months growing responsibilities and always performed in the best way."

Massimo Carpinia, chief of planning, production and control for the battalion, said it likely would be several months before Marti returns to work. The operation, not commonly performed in Italy, reportedly takes about a month of recuperation time.

Carpinia said the part of the liver being donated is expected to regenerate.

Camp Darby public affairs specialist Chiara Mattioli contributed information for this report.

## NATO Music Festival tickets

Tickets are on sale for the 19th NATO Music Festival, scheduled for May 28 in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Military bands from seven nations will perform and more may join them.

The biennial festival, started in 1965, raises money for social and charitable purposes. The current focus is on the NATO Music Festival Foundation, which was established after the 2001 festival.

The venue for the upcoming festival will be the Fritz Walter Stadium on the Betzenberg. The event is co-sponsored by the city and NATO's Allied Air Component Command, headquartered at nearby Ramstein Air Base.

Bands from Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States are committed so far.

Prices for tickets booked in advance range from 11-20 euros, and cost a bit more if bought on the night of the fest. Tickets may be purchased at the tourist office in the Kaiserslautern city hall or online at [www.ticketonline.de](http://www.ticketonline.de).

## U.S. ski team visits Garmisch

Ten members of the U.S. Men's Ski team plan to visit Edelweiss Lodge and Resort in Garmisch, Germany, on Wednesday to meet and mingle with servicemembers and guests, resort officials said.

The skiers will greet guests of the Armed Forces Recreation Center resort 8-9 p.m. in the Gallery level of the main lobby, according to a resort spokesman. Guests and all Department of Defense ID cardholders are invited to attend the informal gathering.

Members of the national ski team will be in Garmisch for the upcoming World Cup races next weekend.

## Wing gets 'excellent' rating

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — The 86th Air Force Wing received an overall rating of "excellent" last week after its first U.S. Air Forces in Europe Unit Compliance Inspection in five years.

In addition, four members of the wing received the Inspector General Award of Excellence. They are Tech. Sgt. David Allum, Tech. Sgt. Jerry Hall, Sigrid Sexsmith and Tina Weichel.

According to wing officials the rating means the wing exceeds requirements in performance; has superior procedures and activities; runs efficient programs; and has few deficiencies.

The wing's primary mission is to operate and maintain cargo planes such as C-130s and passenger planes such as C-20s for use throughout Africa, Europe and the Middle East.

From staff reports



# San Francisco skipper relieved of command

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

The commander of the nuclear-powered submarine which ran aground last month in the Western Pacific, killing one sailor and wounding dozens, was relieved of command in a quiet, behind-closed-doors hearing Saturday morning in Japan.

Cmdr. Kevin Mooney was stripped of his command and issued a career-judging letter of reprimand for failing to implement "several critical navigational and voyage planning procedures," according to a Navy announcement after the hearing. "By not ensuring these standard procedures were fol-

lowed, Mooney hazarded his vessel," reads the announcement. Cmdr. Andrew Hale, deputy commander of Submarine Squadron 15, who was given temporary command of the San Francisco as the incident was being investigated, is now the skipper.

Mooney appeared before 7th Fleet commander Vice Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert at fleet headquarters in Yokosuka on Saturday morning in what the Navy dub's "Admiral's Mast," a form of non-judicial punishment that stops short of the criminal proceedings of a court martial.

"He was reprimanded for hazarding a naval vessel," Greenert's spokesman

Cmdr. Ike Skelton told Stars and Stripes. "Cmdr. Mooney also was relieved due to a loss of confidence in his ability to command."

Skelton, however, was unable to point to any specific evidence or exactly what standard procedures were not being followed that led Greenert to his conclusions. At issue from the beginning has been whether Mooney had access to charts that would have indicated dangerous waters in his area. "I have no details on that," said Skelton. Nor could Skelton say what Mooney should have done differently prior to the crash.

Much of the Pacific Ocean's vast and var-

ied undersea landscape remains poorly charted and Pentagon officials have said the primary maps given to Mooney indicated no dangerous obstacles where the crash took place on Jan. 8, about 350 miles south of the submarine's homeport in Guam.

Also, unclear is what led Greenert to proceed with Admiral's Mast before the investigation into the accident was complete.

Skelton said some information had surfaced in the course of the investigation that "Vice Adm. Greenert felt it was enough evidence to proceed to non-judicial punishment proceedings."

Juliana Gitterer contributed to this report.

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# Rota petty officer 1st class chosen as top shore sailor

BY SCOTT SCHNAUER

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — Petty Officer 1st Class Eric Knight spent two years studying in college and felt like something was missing. He wanted to "see the world."

After a three-hour videotape on Navy boot camp in a recruiter's office, he was hooked.

Good thing for the Navy. Knight, a storekeeper with Rota's Supply Department who juggles more than a half-dozen duties and volunteers in the community, has risen to become the top



Knight

shore sailor in Europe.

"It means an awful lot," he said. "I feel we all share this award, especially at [Naval Station Rota] in Supply. Those guys work hard."

... And you can't get to this position without those junior guys behind you helping you."

Knight is the Commander, Naval Region Europe's top sailor for 2004 and will compete with petty officers first class from shore posts installations for the Commander, Naval Installations sailor-of-the-year award. If he is one of the five selected, he will then compete for the title of Chief of Naval Operations shore sailor of the year in Washington, D.C.

Those named the top sailors for all Navy bases are automatically promoted to chief petty officer.

Knight was born and raised in Los Angeles and went to college in Sacramento, Calif. During his

first two years at Sacramento State College, he bounced between majors before joining the Navy.

Knight has served in the Arabian Gulf and was stationed in Japan before coming to southern Spain, where he serves as the Supply Department's shipping and receiving leading petty officer.

He also serves as a tax adviser for sailors, the department's purchase card reviewing officer and the base mechanical handling equipment operator certifier. After work, he volunteers at the base elementary school for the

After School Scholar program.

Knight and his wife, Christina have two sons, Christopher, 13, and Joshua, 9. He joins Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher Anton, an aviation systems warfare officer from Sigonella, Sicily, as the top petty officer first class in Europe. Anton will represent the Sixth Fleet and compete for this year's Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command sailor of the year.

Each year, the Navy chooses an Atlantic, Pacific, shore, and Reserve sailor of the year from sailors service-wide.

E-mail Scott Schnauer at: schnauer@mail.estripes.osd.mil

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Most men have difficulty finding love because it's hard to be yourself. That's where Alex "Hitch" Hitchens comes in. Alex is a "date doctor" who claims to be able to find customers their perfect romantic match in three dates or less. Sara, meanwhile, is a gossip reporter for a daily tabloid who decides to write an expose on Hitch's confounding methods. However, Sara finds her professional life and personal life on a collision course as she finds herself falling for Alex while investigating his dubious claim. She also makes Hitch re-evaluate his game, and rethink love in the process.

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HITCH

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Adana	.....	8-14 Apr
Aviano	.....	1-7 Apr
Bahnhofen	.....	1-7 Apr
Balad	.....	25 Feb-03 Mar
Bamberg	.....	4-10 Mar
Baumholder	.....	18-24 Mar
Birgum	.....	1-7 Apr
Camp Doha	.....	18-24 Mar
Darmstadt	.....	25-31 Mar
Diekhelm	.....	11-17 Mar
Friedberg	.....	5-14 Apr
Giebelstadt	.....	25-31 Mar
Grafenwoehr	.....	4-10 Mar
Hansa	.....	25 Feb-03 Mar
Heidelberg	.....	4-10 Mar
Hohenfels	.....	11-17 Mar
Hiltsheim	.....	25-31 Mar
Katterbach	.....	18-24 Mar
Kitzingen	.....	18-24 Mar
Kosovo	.....	8-14 Apr
Lakenheath	.....	4-10 Mar
Livorno	.....	18-24 Mar
Mannheim	.....	25 Feb-03 Mar
Mildenhall	.....	25 Feb-03 Mar
Ramstein Hercules	.....	11-17 Mar
Ramstein Nightingale	.....	4-10 Mar
Rhein Main	.....	18-24 Mar
Schweinfurt	.....	11-17 Mar
Spangdahlem	.....	25-31 Mar
Tulla	.....	22-28 Apr
Vaihingen	.....	11-17 Mar
Vicenza	.....	8-14 Apr
Vitoeck	.....	25 Feb-03 Mar
Vogelweh	.....	25 Feb-03 Mar
Wiesbaden	.....	4-10 Mar
Wuerzburg	.....	25 Feb-03 Mar

AAFES

Showtimes are subject to change. Please check your local theater or [aafes.com](http://aafes.com) to verify show dates.

AAFES THEATERS

# Car bombs kill 1 across Iraq

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A car bomb killed 17 people Saturday and injured 21 others in a mostly Shiite Muslim town south of Baghdad, and U.S. troops backed by tanks battled rebels in the country's third largest city as the insurgency showed no sign of abating after national elections.

Another car bomb exploded in an eastern Baghdad neighborhood as a U.S. military convoy passed, killing an Iraqi woman and wounding three others but causing no American casualties, Iraqi police said.

The bomb exploded about a half-mile from a U.S. Army base. The car bomb south of Baghdad exploded near the main hospital in Musayyib, a mostly Shiite town 35 miles south of Baghdad along the Euphrates River. The town is in a religiously mixed area that has been the scene of frequent attacks by Sunni Muslim insurgents.

It appeared the attack was part of a campaign by Sunni Arab extremists against the country's Shites — an estimated 60 percent of Iraq's 26 million people — who stood out the verge of a major victory as officials finish the final counting from the Jan. 30 national elections.

Partial returns show a Shiite-dominated ticket endorsed by the Shiite clergy leading in the race for the 275 seats in the National Assembly. Shiite religious

groups appear to have won control of provincial councils in wide areas of the country.

Sunni Arab extremists, fearing a loss of their privileged position, have accused the Americans of manipulating the election to install Shites and Kurds in power.

Fears of sectarian violence prompted the Iraqi government to announce a five-day closing of the nation's borders starting Thursday to protect worshippers during a major Shiite religious holiday, the Feast of Ashura, which climaxes next weekend.

Fierce clashes broke out Saturday in the northern city of Mosul after American troops, responding to a mortar attack on one of their bases, came under small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire from a mosque, U.S. officials said.

The insurgents disabled a U.S. Army tank and a Stryker armored vehicle during the battle, according to Lt. Col. Erik Kurilla. U.S. troops killed nine insurgents, Kurilla said.

On Saturday, police in Mosul discovered the bodies of 12 men — six dressed in Iraqi National Guard uniforms and the others in civilian clothes — dumped in two areas of the city.

Notes left near the bodies of the Iraqi guardsmen said, "This is the death for those who participated in besieging Fallujah," referring to last November's U.S.-led assault on the insurgent bastion 40 miles west of Baghdad.



U.S. Army soldiers with the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment run toward a tank that had been struck by two rocket-propelled grenades during a four-hour gunbattle with insurgents in Mosul, Iraq, on Saturday.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, at least 1,455 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,111 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is five higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Thursday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A soldier was killed Friday when an explosive detonated in western Baghdad.

■ A soldier died Thursday after a non-hostile incident in Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Sgt. Jessica M. Housby, 23, Rock Island, Ill.; killed Wednesday when an explosive detonated near her convoy in Iraq; assigned to the Army National Guard's 1644th Transportation Company, Rock Falls, Ill.

■ Army Spec. Jeffrey S. Henthorn, 25, Choctaw, Okla.; died Tuesday in Balad, Iraq, of non-combat injuries; assigned to the 24th Transportation Company, Fort Riley, Kan.

## CNN news chief quits over Iraq comments

By HOWARD KURTZ

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Eason Jordan resigned Friday night as CNN's chief news executive in an effort to quell a bubbling controversy over his remarks about U.S. soldiers killing journalists in Iraq.

Even as he said he had misspoken at an international conference in suggesting that coalition troops had "targeted" a dozen journalists and insisted he never believed that, Jordan was being accused hourly by bloggers, liberals as well as conservatives, who provided the rocket fuel for a story that otherwise might have fizzled.

Jordan, 44, said in a statement Friday that he was quitting after 23 years at the network "to prevent CNN from being unfairly tarnished by the controversy over conflicting accounts of my recent remarks regarding the alarming number of journalists killed in Iraq. ... I never meant to imply U.S. forces acted with ill intent when U.S. forces accidentally killed journalists, and I apologize to anyone who thought I said or believed otherwise."

No definitive account of what Jordan said at the World Econom-

ic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Jan. 27 has been made public, including the forum's videotape of the off-the-record session. Two congressional Democrats who were there, Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts and Sen. Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, criticized Jordan's remarks. Others in attendance, including U.S. News & World Report editor at large David Gergen and BBC executive Richard Sambrook, said Jordan had corrected his initial remarks.

Jay Rosen, chairman of New York University's journalism department, who has covered the controversy on his PressThink blog, said he didn't think Jordan "had engaged in a firing offense."

Bloggers "made a lot of noise" about the Jordan flap, Rosen said. "But there was basic reporting going on finding the people who were there, getting them to make statements, comparing one account to another — along with accusations and conspiracy thinking and the politics of paranoia and attacks on the MSM, or mainstream media."

Several CNN staffers say Jordan, who was distraught about the controversy, saw the handwriting on the wall in tendering his resignation.

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# G.I. Iraqi army at FOB Wilson making strides

## Troops tasked with preparing natives to take over

BY TERRY BOYD

Stars and Stripes

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE WILSON, Iraq** — Sgt. 1st Class Clifford Jackson — and U.S. soldiers like him across Iraq — may be the best hope for soldiers who never want to spend another year in the desert.

Jackson, a 1st Infantry Division scout assigned to 1st Squadron, 4th U.S. Cavalry Regiment, has spent the better part of a year training Iraqi army troops at Forward Operating Base Wilson outside Tikrit.

Here, otherwise cynical soldiers are quick to say that while the local police are worthless, the 235 Iraqi army soldiers of Company D, 201st Battalion, are real soldiers and getting better, thanks largely to people such as Jackson.

In a war where no one can even say exactly who the enemy is, the biggest unknown may be when — if ever — Iraqi soldiers will become a fighting force that can take the stress off American soldiers.

On Thursday, U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told U.S. troops during a surprise trip to Mosul that they will be able to leave the desert once Iraqi forces are strong enough to maintain security. However, Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, recently told Congress that only about one-third of Iraq's 136,000-person security force is capable of fighting insurgents.

Nearly two years after the invasion, the effort to create an effective Iraqi army has yielded incon-

sistent results. In 2004, Fallujah brigade soldiers refused to fight, then joined insurgents. In Baghdad, 1st Cavalry Division soldiers routinely disarmed Iraqi Civil Defense Corps soldiers last summer, fearing insurgents had infiltrated their ranks.

That's not the case at FOB Wilson, Jackson said, and the only people he has to prove to it are fellow soldiers. "When they say the IA is doing a good job, they're not blowing smoke ...," he said. "If they weren't, they'd be demanding I get their heads out of their [expelive]."

Jackson predicted Iraqi soldiers could be taking the initiative on raids and patrols in a year, with U.S. soldiers in the background.

Iraqi soldiers are focused and reliable, he said. Over the last year, U.S. soldiers helped them improve marksmanship. The Iraqis have higher morale. They're more disciplined in everything they do.

During a rocket attack on FOB Wilson on Wednesday, Iraqi soldiers not only spotted the launch, they placed it within 100 meters of the grid pinpointed by base ground radar, Jackson said.

But it took a long time to get to this point. When the 1-4 Cav arrived at FOB Wilson 12 months ago, "we used to have to push the IA to do every little thing," said Sgt. Daniel Veach, a 1-4 Cav squad leader.

He wouldn't even go out the gate with them, Veach said. Now, he patrols regularly with IA troops. "They're 300 times better," That said, the Iraqi fighters

still need work. "When they have contact, it's not uncommon for them to go black on ammo," Jackson said. That is, to empty their AK-47s before they have a clear idea of what or whom they're shooting at.

Local soldiers also have little in the way of a rank structure or chain of command because they're friends with all who live outside FOB Wilson in Mufjana or Ad-Dawr.

But they've proved dozens of times they'll fight, soldiers told Stars and Stripes. And they have come a long way, considering how bad relations were early on.

Just after the 1st ID arrived in 2004, Iraqi soldiers got a tip one night and went after — without notifying the Americans — a man suspected of taking potshots at them, Jackson said. A team of Special Forces soldiers and civilian operatives were, by coincidence, observing a neighboring house. In the confusion, the Special Forces team killed five Iraqi soldiers, mistaking them for insurgents. In the aftermath, one-quarter to one-third of the Iraqis quit. A few weeks later, two Iraqi soldiers were kidnapped and executed.

Episodes like that left Jackson feeling he was in the middle of a nightmare job he never wanted.

"I did not want to be here. I wanted to be with my guys," he said. "I keep asking myself, 'Why am I here?' Then he realized getting the Iraqi army up and running is my insurance policy. That I don't have to come back here."

The turning point came when the Army supply chain started producing. "When we got here, [Iraqi troops] were underproduced, undertrained," Jackson said. Initially, there wasn't much 1-4 Cav soldiers could do except "request, request, request," he said.

Soon, uniforms, weapons and radios started flowing. Then trucks. With the materiel improvements, came improving Iraqi morale and confidence.

"They take pride in the stuff they have, no matter how limited," Jackson said.

But Iraqi soldiers say they still need greater capabilities. The Iraqi army won't be able take over from the United States until it is equipped like the Americans, said Staff Sgt. Alaa Akram, one of several 201st soldiers who speak English. The Iraqis won't be able to replace the Americans till they have tanks, aircraft and communi-



PHOTOS BY TERRY BOYD/Stars and Stripes

Above: Staff Sgt. Clifford Jackson, left, at Forward Operating Base Wilson, Iraq, never wanted to work with Iraqi Army troops. "I wanted to be with my guys," said Jackson. But helping build the Iraqi forces is his insurance policy, making sure he won't have to come back again, said the 28-year-old soldier. Below: Iraqi Army soldiers take a substantial risk joining, including bombings at recruitment stations. Most soldiers wear masks when on missions to keep their identities hidden, making it more difficult for insurgents to retaliate against them and their families.



cations equipment, he said.

Currently, there is "the beginning" of a mechanized infantry brigade, but no plans to give the Iraqi heavy weapons, said Sgt. Steve Maranian, Iraqi security forces coordinator at 1st ID headquarters at Camp Dancer in Tikrit.

In January, the New York Times reported that \$300 million in Iraqi government funds is missing, money earmarked for the purchase of weapons for a new Iraqi armored brigade.

Just as important as weapons, Akram added, is that the central government establish "strong law." Right now, the Americans are the law, especially Jackson.

Wednesday, a retort, fireplug of an Iraqi officer stormed into Jackson's office, demanding Jackson discipline a soldier who had smashed up a truck. But Jackson is days from returning to the 1-4 Cav headquarters at Schweinfurt, Germany. "What are you going to do when I'm gone? E-mail me?"

Jackson asked.

"You're the [executive officer]. You've got a good head on your shoulders. You take care of it."

Some 1-4 Cav troops see the soldiers coming into the Iraqi army now as superior to those who joined when it was called the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps. During last October's fighting in Samarra, Veach said he saw elite Iraqi army soldiers that were "at the point that our guys are getting to now."

Ultimately, there is only so much the Americans can do, Akram said. The difference between his men and U.S. soldiers is something far more abstract than weapons or training.

"It's heart," Akram said. He'll know the Iraqi army is ready to take control from the Americans when his fellow soldiers quit joining for a paycheck, he said.

"When we're like the American soldier," Akram said. "He never worries about money. He's worried about his country."

E-mail Terry Boyd at: boyd@mail.strips.ced.mil

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## British soldier denies role in Iraqi prisoner abuse

The Associated Press

OSNABRUECK, Germany — A British soldier on trial for alleged abuse of detained Iraqis denied in emotional testimony Friday that he made two detainees simulate sexual acts, saying a subordinate who brought the accusation was lying.

Cpl. Daniel Kenyon, the senior defendant, told a court-martial he stopped the abuse as soon as he saw it and decided not to report it to superiors because other soldiers had also been treating detainees harshly that day in an effort to deter looting, highlighting them with sticks.

Kenyon has been accused by Lance Cpl. Gary Bartram, whose testimony and photos taken in May 2003 at a British-occupied aid warehouse outside Basra underpinned the British military's case against them and two other soldiers.

Prosecutor Lt. Col. Nick Clapham confronted Kenyon with Bartram's statement that Kenyon actively took part in making two striped Iraqi detainees fake oral sex.

"I am telling you, I am a soldier standing here with my uniform and there is no way I was involved in this," replied Kenyon, his voice cracking with emotion.

## IN THE WORLD

## Rumsfeld urges unity in terror war

BY JOHN J. LUMPKIN  
The Associated Press

MUNICH, Germany — Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, taking a conciliatory tone, said Saturday the U.S.-European alliance can withstand its current differences and be urged unified efforts to defeat terrorism and deter weapons proliferation.

Referring to his earlier critical description of European nations that opposed the Iraq war as "old Europe," Rumsfeld said, "That was old Rumsfeld," drawing laughs from officials at a security conference.

"Our collective security depends on our cooperation and mutual respect and understanding," Rumsfeld said.

Among those attending the Munich Conference on Security Policy were U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, NATO Secretary-General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and German Defense Minister Peter Struck.

Rumsfeld called for further cooperative efforts to counter the spread of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism.

"Our Atlantic alliance relationship has navigated through some choppy seas over the years. But we have always been able to resolve the toughest issues. That is because there is so much to unite us: common values, shared histories and an abiding faith in democracy," Rumsfeld said.

The Pentagon chief said joint legal, diplomatic and intelligence efforts were crucial.

"By now, it must be clear that one nation cannot defeat the extremists alone," Rumsfeld said.

"It will take the cooperation of many nations to stop the proliferation of dangerous weapons ... and it surely takes a community of nations to gather intelligence about extremist networks, to break up financial support lines, or to apprehend suspected terrorists," Rumsfeld said.



AP

**U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld laughs at the Munich Conference on Security Policy in a hotel in Germany on Saturday.**

hend suspected terrorists," Rumsfeld said.

He added, "The military can only be part of the solution and it is always the last resort."

The secretary singled out France and Germany, two of the most vocal critics of the U.S.-led war in Iraq, for praise for their arrests of suspected Islamic extremists last month.

His description of France and Germany as part of "old Europe" caused bad blood in the run-up to the war.

Rumsfeld came out strongly against a suggestion to move away from NATO as the main vehicle for trans-Atlantic dialogue.

"NATO has a great deal of energy and vitality," he said. "I believe they are undertaking the kinds of reforms to bring the institution into the 21st century. The place to discuss trans-Atlantic issues clearly is NATO."

## Germany calls for U.S. aid to end Iran's isolation

The Associated Press

MUNICH, Germany — Germany appealed Saturday for the United States to join Europe in ending the isolation of Iran, saying economic and security incentives were needed to persuade Tehran to abandon its nuclear ambitions.

"I strongly encourage the U.S. administration to actively support the Europeans' diplomatic efforts," German Defense Minister Peter Struck told a security conference.

"We must overcome Iran's massive isolation, for Iran will only abandon its nuclear ambitions for good if not only its economic but also its legitimate security interests are safeguarded."

Germany, France and Britain are leading European diplomatic efforts to persuade Iran to drop activities that could be used to develop nuclear weapons. They are offering financial and technical assistance and trade talks as incentives.

The United States has worried Europeans by refusing to rule out military strikes if diplomacy fails. Washington has urged the Europeans to take a tougher line by threatening Tehran with U.N. sanctions if it fails to give stronger nuclear guarantees.

European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana said Iran should be in no doubt of the consequences of failing to resolve the nuclear standoff.

U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Europe and the United States shared the aim of ensuring Iran does not develop nuclear weapons technology. "There is not much daylight between the approach of the United States and the Europeans," he said.



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## Mother Nature still beating on Pakistan

The Associated Press

UTHAL, Pakistan — The death toll from a burst dam in Pakistan rose to 135 on Saturday as troops and rescue workers searched for survivors, and the country's total number of deaths from weeklong rains and avalanches rose to 278, officials said.

"So far, Pakistan army, navy and coast guards have pulled out 135 bodies from floodwaters in Panni and two nearby districts," said Mohammed Ilyas, a senior official at the provincial Crisis Control and Management Cell in Quetta, capital of the southwestern province of Baluchistan.

Heavy rains apparently caused the 490-foot-long Shkador Dam to burst late Thursday in Baluchistan's Panni area, about 1,180 miles southwest of the national capital, Islamabad.

About 500 people were still missing, Ilyas said.

Troops and police also raced to two villages in Pakistan's part of Kashmir on Saturday after avalanches buried several homes, killing at least 38 people, said Tahir Mahmood Qureshi, a senior police officer in the area.

A major avalanche struck a scenic valley Friday in Swat, a scenic, mountainous region in northwestern Pakistan, damaging all 20 homes there. It was not clear whether there were any casualties.

Elsewhere, as many as 85 people were killed in the past week when roofs of their homes collapsed amid heavy rains, an official at the state-run Emergency Relief cell in Islamabad said on condition of anonymity.

On Saturday, President Gen. Pervez Musharraf visited rain-hit areas of Baluchistan and reviewed relief efforts.



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# British troops to leave Indonesia

## Sri Lanka couple fighting for custody of 'Baby 81' undergo DNA testing

BY CHRISTOPHER BODEEN  
The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia — About three dozen British pilots and other personnel who have been in hardest-hit Aceh province since Jan. 2 prepared to leave the area on Sunday.

A Royal Navy vessel, the HMS Scott, remains in Indonesian waters with a team of British scientists and Indonesian naval officers conducting a detailed survey of the ocean floor near the earthquake's epicenter off the coast of Sumatra Island. The ship was scheduled to depart Feb. 15.

The move follows the departure of about 10,000 U.S. troops from the area, while another 5,000 still remain, mostly based on U.S. ships. About a dozen countries have sent forces into the area, including Australia, Japan and France, which sent around 1,000 troops each.

Meanwhile, the long search for the parents of "Baby 81," an infant boy found in the debris of the tsunami in Sri Lanka, took a big



A Sri Lankan policeman guards the famous tsunami survivor infant dubbed "Baby 81" inside a ward as people watch from outside at a hospital in Kalmunai, Sri Lanka.

step forward with the completion of DNA tests.

The DNA tests were done on the 3-month-old boy and a couple who claim to be his parents. The results are likely to be announced next week, said Mohammed Nazir, a court registrar.

The baby boy's story has captured hearts in Sri Lanka and the world, becoming a symbol of families torn apart by the Dec. 26 tsunami tragedy, which killed at least 165,000 people and left up to 142,107 missing and presumed dead across 11 countries around

the Indian Ocean.

Nine women initially claimed the baby, but only one couple — Murugupillai and Janita Jayarajah — formally pressed their case in court. The distraught couple this week had tests done to genetically compare them with a sample taken from the baby.

The Jayarahs, who lost their home and family records in the tsunami, have spent seven weeks trying to obtain the boy they call Abilash.

As the relief effort swings from an emergency operation to one focused on rebuilding, Indonesian authorities announced new measures restricting reconstruction along coastlines.

Residents whose homes or businesses were swept away will be asked to rebuild away from the shore so mangrove forests can be planted there to act as a natural barrier against high surf, The Jakarta Post paper reported.

In moderately damaged areas farther inland, authorities would limit homes and other development, such as farms, fisheries and city gardens.

# Rice offers stylish image of U.S.

BY ANNE GEARAN  
The Associated Press

PARIS — It will take some time to get the most recent European caricature of Americans and their president as being reckless and out of touch, but it doesn't hurt to speak French and wear a superbly cut suit while trying.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is the new face of U.S. foreign policy in more ways than one. On her first foreign trip as President Bush's chief diplomat, Rice is displaying a sophisticated style right at home on the streets and in the salons of taste-making capitals such as Rome and Paris.

Her custom-made suits have included a black boucle number with gold brocade that probably cost more than your first car. She favors chic Italian heels, nipped waists and understated jewelry.

Rice's eight-day hopscotch across Europe and the Middle East is meant to project a different image of the United States, and change the subject from frustration and anger over the Iraq war.

She is resolute in defending American policies, many of which she helped direct as Bush's first-term national security adviser. But she also comes with intellectual and academic bona fides, as well as years of training in classical piano.

She visited a Parisian music school Wednesday — Conservatoire Hector Berlioz — in a cultural grace note after her speech inviting debate with the French political elite on Tuesday.

Rice watched and tapped her toes to keep time as a music teacher led a group of students ages 7 to 9 through their scales. She told

the youngsters she learned to read music at age 3. "It takes a lot of work to learn to read music," she said. "You have to practice and practice and practice."

She also heard much older students preparing for a Beethoven recital and told them she is working to master a piano piece by Anton Dvorak.

Rice worked the French national motto, "Liberte, Egalite, Fraternite," into her speech at the political science academy Sciences Politiques Institute, although her accent was distinctly American.

She charmed some in the audience, including Sciences Po economist Francois Rachline, who called her "courageous."

Wednesday morning's Le Figaro gave her a complimentary review.

"With an impeccable silhouette, she put the 'la' back in the new diplomacy," the newspaper said.

Rice's photograph has been on the front pages of newspapers across Europe for most of the month, with never a hair out of place.

Rice has remarked that the paparazzi-like coverage was jarring, although she has had moments in the limelight, even posing for Vogue in a black evening gown with decolleteage.

The intensive coverage of Rice's trip is testament both to the interest Europeans have in the plans and policies of their much larger ally across the Atlantic and to a curiosity about Rice herself.



Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice struts her style in Paris.

## Apartments collapse

MADRID, Spain — Spain's prime minister toured Friday a Barcelona neighborhood where gaping holes triggered by subway construction caused apartment buildings to collapse, leaving more than 1,000 people homeless.

Local officials were forced to evacuate about 1,000 people on Jan. 27 as the ground began to show signs of giving way along the route of the underground work.

## Bush to visit Germany

FRANKFURT, Germany — Authorities in the German city of Wiesbaden on Friday urged local schools to close during a Feb. 23 visit by President Bush, citing traffic disruption that likely will emerge from extensive road closures.

Bush is to meet with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder across the Rhine River in Mainz as part of a European trip.

Local officials say that after his talks with Schroeder, Bush will cross the river to Wiesbaden and visit U.S. troops.

## Poli: Italian food rules

MADRID, Spain — When it comes to culinary chauvinism, Italians take the cake.

Spaniards rave over their pickled octopus and blood sausages, but Brits and Germans — who flock here for vacation and retirement — can't stand the stuff. As for English fare, many Londoners pooh-pooh their own steak-and-kidney pie.

Thus reads a six-country poll released Thursday on what Europeans like and don't like to eat.

Those proudest of their national fare are the Italians. A robust 89 percent of those questioned prefer it to any other kind of cuisine, according to the survey carried out by British pollster MORI.

Spain came in second with 85 percent, followed by the French at 76 percent. Those least enthused by their own cuisine are the Dutch.

From The Associated Press

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## IN THE STATES

# Howard Dean elected to lead Democratic Party

BY WILL LESTER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats elected Howard Dean chairman of their national party on Saturday, casting their lot with a skilled fund-raiser and organizer whose sometimes caustic, blunt comments can lead to controversy.

The 447-member Democratic National Committee chose Dean on a voice vote to replace outgoing party chief Terry McAuliffe. The former Vermont governor and presidential candidate had promised to rebuild the state parties, take the offensive against Republicans, and better explain party positions on issues.

Democrats are eager to renew their campaign to regain political power, though some admit to a bit of anxiety, with Republicans firmly in control of almost everything. "We only have one way to go, and that's up," Georgia delegate Lonnie Platt said.

For Joyce Casack, a Florida delegate, it's time for Democrats to embrace their party's values.

"We are trying so hard to be like Republicans and we're not. I think Howard Dean says clearly that we are different," Casack said.

Democratic leaders, who were

initially wary of a Dean chairmanship, started embracing his leadership after it became apparent he was strong enough to claim the job. Several high-profile Democrats considering a bid for chairman backed out of the race.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, not always a Dean supporter, said Friday, "He has used the power of technology, the force of his personality and the depth of his ideals to bring new people into the party."

Dean told Democratic committee members Friday that it's important to learn to be more comfortable discussing the party's core values.

"The way I hope to deal with that problem, is not to abandon our core principles, but talk about them in a different way," he said.

Democrats are not pro-abortion, but "we are the party in favor of allowing women to make up their own minds about their health care," Dean, a physician, said.

Democrats are not for gay marriage, but "we are the party that has always believed in equal rights under the law for all people," he said.

"We are the party of moral values," Dean said. "There is nothing moral about cutting 300 million dollars that is used to feed starving children."

## Dems under Dean

**NEW CHAIRMAN:** Howard Dean, a former presidential candidate, was elected Democratic national chairman by members of the Democratic National Committee.

**DEMOCRATS' GOALS:** Dean wants to lead the party toward a more aggressive approach with Republicans, staying on offense and learning how to talk more effectively about Democratic positions on the issues.

**PARTY BUILDING:** His leadership plan calls for investing more in state parties, but requiring them to provide detailed plans of how they will use the money. He also wants to develop better grass-roots support in the states so Democrats can recruit more people locally to get out the vote.

— The Associated Press



Dean



AP photos

Artists Christo, left, and Joanne-Claude are joined by New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, right, to open the artists' "The Gates" art project in New York's Central Park on Saturday.

## Art project opens with unfurling of 'The Gates'

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — With flowing fabric the color of a sunrise, "The Gates" — a massive public art installation — was unfurled Saturday for the start of a 16-day stay transforming miles of footpaths in Central Park.

The project opened with Mayor Michael Bloomberg dropping the first piece of saffron-colored fabric to the cheers of a huge crowd. He was joined by exhibit creators Christo and Joanne-Claude.

The crowd counted down the seconds before Bloomberg, a longtime backer of the project, opened the exhibition at 8:30 a.m.

The weather was windy and cold as the first fabric dropped from one of the 7,500 16-foot-high gates, creating what the artists billed as "a visual golden river" along 23 miles of the park's footpaths. More than 1 million square feet of fabric was used by the artists.

Its official title — "The Gates, Central Park, New York, 1979-2005" — refers to the art-

ists' conception of the idea 26 years ago. It was expected to take about two hours to drop the fabric from all the gates.

"It's a bit insane, but that's why everybody is here," said Ali Naqvi, who was forced to come to the unveiling by his fiancée.

Among the first folks there were 17 fourth-graders from an elementary school in Queens. The group boarded a bus before sunrise and made the trip into Manhattan, where they were suitably impressed by the spectacle.

"It's a waste of money, but it's fabulous," said student Shikana Jayson. "It brings happiness when you look at it."

Visitors to the park had already admired the vinyl gates, even with the fabric still tucked inside "cocoon" on top of the structures.

"I think it's fantastic," said Dominique Borel, who was walking her dog, Mickey, on Friday. "I love it. I think it's exhilarating." Mickey was wearing an orange scarf around his neck in honor of the project.



Pedestrians walk beneath "The Gates," on Saturday, which transforms miles of footpaths in Central Park.

## Bush presses Social Security

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush warned Saturday that if Congress does not act now to overhaul Social Security, the choices ahead will be harsh and painful.

He repeated his call to add private accounts to the system.

As he has in visits to eight states, Bush emphasized in his weekly radio address that the system will soon run short of money, with more going out to pay benefits than is collected in taxes.

"If we do not act now to avert that outcome, the only solutions would be dramatically higher taxes,

massive new borrowing or sudden and severe cuts in Social Security benefits or other government programs," he said.

Responding for the Democrats in their radio address, Sen. Charles Schumer of New York said the program needs "fine-tuning," not replacement "with something completely different."

The program's trustees have said the program will begin to run a deficit in 2018 and by 2042, it will only be able to pay 73 percent of promised benefits.

"We cannot pretend that the problem does not exist," Bush said. "Social Security will go broke when some of our younger workers get ready to retire, and that is a fact."

## Oregon man arrested, accused of trying to set up mass suicide pact with women

The Associated Press

GRANTS PASS, Ore. — A man used an Internet chat room to try to set up a mass suicide on Valentine's Day involving more than two dozen women across the United States and Canada, authorities said.

Gerald Krein, 26, was arrested Wednesday at his mother's mobile home in Klamath Falls and faces charges of solicitation to commit murder, sheriff's deputies said. Investigators are subpoenaing chat room records to try to

contact people who may have planned to take part in the suicide.

Detectives learned of the plan from a woman in Canada who said she saw the message in a Yahoo chat room that had the words "Suicide Ideology" in the title.

The woman told detectives she was going to take part in the suicide but had second thoughts when another chat room participant said she would do it and talked about killing her two chil-

dren before taking her own life, said Klamath County Sheriff Tim Evinger.

"Our primary goal is to try to locate where these endangered children might be," Evinger said. "We need to investigate where these other computers are. Hopefully we can intervene if anyone still has the notion to follow through with this."

The chat room participants planned to log in on Valentine's Day and commit suicide while keeping in touch over the Internet, Evinger said.



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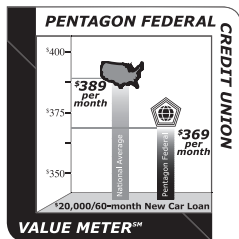
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Del. Algie Howell, D-Norfolk, packs Thursday after the Senate in Richmond, Va., after the Senate killed a bill he proposed that sought to fine those wearing pants that hang low enough to reveal their underwear.

## Va. senate drops bill on droopy trousers

The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Virginia lawmakers dropped their droopy-pants bill Thursday after the whole thing became just too embarrassing.

The bill, which would have slapped a \$50 fine on people who wear their pants so low that their underwear is visible in "a lewd or indecent manner," passed the state House on Tuesday but was killed by a Senate committee two days later in a unanimous vote.

Republican Sen. Thomas K. Norment said news reports implied that lawmakers were preoccupied with droopy pants. "I find that an indignation, which dampens my humor," Norment said.

Republican Sen. Kenneth Stolle, the committee chairman, called the bill "a distraction."

The committee hearing drew a standing-room-only crowd that included 75 government students from Surry County High School.

"If people in Florida can wear bikinis, a little underwear showing isn't going to hurt anybody," 17-year-old Elynn Shaw said.

The bill's sponsor, Democratic Delegate Algie T. Howell, declined to answer reporters' questions Thursday but issued a statement saying the bill "was in direct response to a number of my constituents who found this to be a very important issue."

He has said perturbed constituents included customers at his barber shop who were offended by exposed underwear.

Meanwhile, in California, hundreds of students walked out of classes Thursday at Colton High School east of Los Angeles in protest of a dress code banning drooping pants for boys and bare midriffs for girls. All the school's more than 3,300 students were sent home late in the morning after administrators failed to persuade the protesters to return to class, said a school district spokesman.

"The vast majority walked out because it's a good excuse for them to get out of class," he said.

BY LINDA A. JOHNSON

The Associated Press

Urging a major shift in U.S. policy, some health experts are recommending that virtually all Americans be tested routinely for the AIDS virus, much as they are for cancer and other diseases.

Since the early years of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, the government has recommended screening only in big cities, where AIDS rates are high, and among members of high-risk groups, such as gay men and drug addicts.

But two large, federally funded studies found that the cost of routinely testing and treating nearly all adults would be outweighed by a reduction in new infections and the opportunity to start patients on drug cocktails early, when they work best.

"Given the availability of effective therapy and preventive measures, it is possible to improve care and perhaps influence the course of the epidemic through widespread, effective and cost-effective screening," Dr. Samuel A. Bozzette wrote in an editorial accompanying the studies, which appear in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

A failure to institute such screening at doctors' offices and clinics would be "a critical disservice" to patients with the AIDS virus and "the future health of the nation," wrote Bozzette, who is from the University of California at San Diego and the Rand Corp. think tank in Santa Monica, Calif.

Dr. Robert Janssen, director of HIV/AIDS prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said the CDC will re-evaluate its guidelines over the next two

## The case for screening everyone

**The Problem:** Many HIV patients aren't diagnosed until symptoms begin. At that point, today's powerful drug cocktails are less effective in controlling the virus and prolonging life.

**New Data:** Two large studies find that testing all adults once, and testing people in major cities or high-risk groups every three to five years, would be a cost-effective way to reduce new infections about 20 percent each year and get patients needed help.

**Current Policy:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends HIV testing only for people in high-risk groups or cities.

**Impact:** A top CDC official says the agency will consider the data as it re-evaluates its policy and expects some private insurers now will encourage more HIV testing.

From The Associated Press

years, and will consider the study's findings as well as the availability of new, rapid HIV tests that produce results in a half-hour instead of the usual week or two.

Who would bear the cost of expanded testing — and the cost of the treatment, which runs to at least \$15,000 a year — remains a sticky question amid government cutbacks in health-care funding.

However, Janssen said the studies' findings could lead to some private insurers to encourage more HIV testing.

One of the studies, by researchers at Duke and Stanford universities and the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System, estimated that routine one-time testing of everyone would cut new infections each year by just over 20 percent, and that every HIV-infected patient identified would have an average of 1½ years of life.

The other study, by Yale and Harvard researchers, found that testing people every three to five years would be cost-effective for all but the lowest-risk people, such

as those who are celibate or are in monogamous heterosexual relationships. And even for those people, one-time testing was found to be cost-effective.

Nationwide, about 40,000 new HIV infections occur each year. An estimated 950,000 people are infected with the virus, but about 280,000 of them don't know it.

CDC guidelines recommend routine tests wherever the prevalence of HIV infection is more than 1 percent — basically, cities and some densely populated suburbs.

"If you need proof of the fact that it's not working, look at all the people who have slipped through the cracks — 280,000," said A. David Paley of the Yale School of Medicine's division of health policy, lead author of the second study.

The VA-funded study found that in areas where about 1 in 100 patients has undiagnosed HIV — what the CDC calls high-risk settings — widespread testing would cost about \$15,100 for each year of good health being by people diagnosed with the virus, counting the benefits to their sexual partners.

## New HIV strain detected in N.Y.

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — City health officials are working to track down sex partners of a man diagnosed with a rare strain of highly drug-resistant HIV that progressed rapidly to AIDS.

The virus was found in a man in his mid-40s who had unprotected sex with other men, often while using crystal methamphetamine, an addictive stimulant, health officials said Friday.

"We are not aware of another case like this in the United States, or elsewhere," said Dr. Ron Valdesir, deputy director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention.

The New York Times, citing a person familiar with the case whom it did not identify, reported Saturday that the man was believed to have had unprotected sex with hundreds of people. The onset of AIDS appears to have occurred within two to three months, and at most 20 months, after infection. Frieden said HIV can take 10 years to develop into AIDS.

Some AIDS experts were skeptical. Dr. Robert C. Gallo, a discoverer of the AIDS virus and director of the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland, said some patients progress more rapidly to AIDS because they are highly susceptible.

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# Famous moms have got it going on

From 'Desperate Housewives' to FHM magazine, motherhood is suddenly sexy

By LISA ANDERSON  
Chicago Tribune

NEW YORK — So long, soccer moms in minivans. Hello, hot moms in miniskirts. Americans may still feel the same way about apple pie, but the image of Mom in the sentimental land of June Cleaver and Harriet Nelson is undergoing what some might call an extreme makeover.

From the voluptuous, fictional, 40-something "Desperate Housewives" of Wisteria Lane to such svelte real-life pushers of prams as actresses Gwyneth Paltrow and Julia Roberts, mothers in popular culture rarely have been portrayed as so stylish, so seductive and, yes, sexy. So hot, in fact, writers pen songs about them, re-

tailors stock stores for them and publishers make cover girls out of them.

Hot moms, in fact, have graced the covers of three non-mom-oriented magazines this month, underscoring the spreading popularity of a concept that is as complex as it is controversial.

If "there are no ugly mothers on Wisteria Lane," as Kathy Newnam, an English professor and specialist in media studies at Carnegie Mellon University, pointed out, neither is there a simple definition of what makes a mom hot. Teri Hatcher, who plays the divorced, work-at-home mother of a teenage daughter on ABC's soapy suburban series "Desperate Housewives," appeared on the February covers of two quite dif-

ferent magazines — the upscale fashion book Harper's Bazaar and the down-and-slightly-dirty so-called "lad mag" FHM.

And Elle featured actress Uma Thurman, the 34-year-old mother of a young boy and girl, wearing a Fendi leather jacket and an embroidered shirt that bared a taut bit of belly over a pair of low-slung Diesel jeans — a look that would be equally appropriate on a woman half her age.

But combining sexiness and motherhood can be a tricky equation in a decency-obsessed society with strong feelings regarding what constitutes a good mother, said Sharon Hays, a sociologist at the University of Virginia and author of "The Cultural Contradictions of Motherhood."

"Of course, these hot moms have this sexy and alluring side and with that comes a darker side, which is cunning, manipulative, caty and even deadly," said Hays, noting we have been here many times before.

Think Mrs. Robinson in the 1967 film "The Graduate." Think 2000's "Erin Brockovich." Think 2002's "White Oleander." All depict sensual women who drew well outside the traditional G-rated maternal lines of dress and behavior.

The WB Television Network plans an April debut for "Living with Fran," about a miniskirted, middle-age divorcee and mother of two, and last week ABC announced "Soccer Moms," the pilot for a new series starring Kristin Davis as one of a pair of suburban housewives-turned-private-investigators.

Joanne Brundage, founder and executive director of Mothers & More, a 17-year-old national support and advocacy group for mothers, said her members love "Desperate Housewives" because "mothers are absolutely starved for meaty shows about mothers."

She said they most identify with Felicity Huffman's character, Lynette, a former high-powered career woman who chose to be a stay-at-home mom and daily wrestles with the challenges of four unmanageable kids and a fading sense of identity.

On the other hand, Brundage noted, her husband's favorite character on the show is Susan, the single mother

played by Hatcher. She's not surprised.

"My theory is that it has always been the same with men," she said. "It's always the vixen next door. She's very sweet, but oh mama!"



Teri Hatcher  
AP

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## Valentine's pressure is mostly a guy thing

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — So far, most of the Valentine's Day customers at Kron Chocolaterie have been women, and that's about what co-owner Cheri Friedman has come to expect. By Monday, however, the small chocolate shop in Washington will be wall-to-wall men, clamoring to meet a love deadline that, for some, is more headache than heart song.

"We've had a few guys come in early and spend 15 minutes or a half-hour — 'Would she like this? Would she like that?' There are some of those still out there," Friedman said. "But the last-minute guys come in, and they'll take whatever's on the shelves."

Perhaps it is unfair to highlight the gender differences involved in shopping for a holiday already burdened with romantic symbolism.

But as Valentine's Day becomes a bigger commercial event, pressure has grown to mark the day lavishly, and it is men who feel most of the heat.

"It's the one holiday where every man shops," said Marcia Levi, owner of Chocolate Moose

in downtown Washington. "I've seen the type who clearly does it out of obligation. And then there's the husband who knows his wife's sizes and whether she likes post or dangly earrings ..."

With the flood of advertisements for Valentine's jewelry, candy, lingerie, romantic getaways and other items, there's no escaping the fact that a major gift-giving occasion is on the horizon. Listeners of a local sports radio station are being prodded with frequent advertisements for last-minute gifts that can be ordered online or by phone.

"Most of our audience is male," said Chris Johnson, a senior producer with SportsTalk 980, "and in a jokingly playful way, we're saying, 'Come on, guys, you know you haven't bought anything yet!'"

Jonathan Tycko said he likes to buy his wife, Joan, candy or books but no longer feels the pressure to produce an eye-popping gift. "It's different once you're married than when you're in the dating stages," said Tycko, 36, a lawyer. "Once you're married, as long as you're comfortable in your marriage, it's just a fun holiday."

# Stars, fans say goodbye to Ossie Davis

BY JOSE MARTINEZ AND  
LEO STANDORA  
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — A galaxy of stars and fans gathered in Harlem on Friday to bid a sad farewell to beloved actor, writer and social activist Ossie Davis.

More than 1,000 mourners lined up around the block for hours in the bone-chilling wind to enter the Abyssinian Baptist Church for a last glimpse of the man the Rev. Alvin Butts called "an icon for all America."

"I think that he stood for such integrity and for such grace and power," Oprah Winfrey said.

"I think his life and the life of [wife] Ruby Dee are lives that have been bridges to me, so I felt like I needed to honor that in some way," she said.

Davis died Feb. 4 in his hotel room in Miami Beach, Fla. The 87-year-old had been in Florida making a film, "Retirement." His funeral will be at noon Saturday at Riverside Church.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and several other city officials attended Friday's viewing, along with such entertainment luminaries as Danny Glover, Spike Lee, P. Diddy, Diahann Carroll, Dick Gregory and Lynn Whitfield.

They came to the church to honor the man whose history of civil rights activism includes the

1963 March on Washington with Martin Luther King Jr. and the memorable eulogy for his slain friend, Malcolm X, whom he praised as "our own black shining prince."

"He always said, 'Do the right thing and you can't do no wrong,'" recalled retired Floyd Brown, 67. "To me, he was a legend." Hunching into his coat, he added, "At my age I could be someplace else, but I needed to pay my respects."

Elsewhere on the line of mourners that included some in African garb and others thumping mournfully on small drums was Anita Thompson, a 52-year-old hospital worker who remembers Davis for his commitment to the working man.

"I'm just a babe," she said, "but I'm about what he was about. The lessons I got from him years ago, I carry with me always."

Store owner Karen Muhammad, 41, of Harlem, said she had always considered Davis and Dee role models for her own 20-year marriage. "I all my life wanted to meet them," she said. "It's unfortunate I have to be here under these circumstances, but I felt I had to stand here."

Many of the mourners rushed from the line and mobbed Dee as she left the church. For a moment, a faint smile replaced the grief on her face and she murmured "thank you" to the crowd.



AP photos

**Top:** Ruby Dee departs from the wake of her husband, Ossie Davis, at Abyssinian Baptist Church on Friday in New York. Davis, an actor distinguished for roles dealing with racial justice, died Feb. 4 in Miami.

**Right:** Spike Lee departs from Davis' wake.



## Tenant house is heart of black heritage site

Educator's home is center of foundation's memorial to racial struggles in S. Carolina

BY JOEY HOLLEMAN  
The State (Columbia, S.C.)

COLUMBIA, S.C. — The simple boyhood home of noted black educator Benjamin Mays stood for years on a Greenwood County farm, serving as a repository for hay and, at times, a target of racial hate.

Now, the clapboard structure stands proudly as the centerpiece of a burgeoning heritage complex in downtown Greenwood, an eloquent statement on the fortitude of Mays in particular and his race in general.

"When I'm in the house, it makes me think, 'This man came from so little,'" said Jairus Dayton-Garris, manager of black tourism development for the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor. "Like so many from the South, the focus was on building a future, not what they didn't have."

Mays overcame the prejudices and inferior public education offered to blacks in South Carolina in the early 1900s. He talked his parents into allowing him to attend the high school part of South Carolina State College in Orangeburg, then went on to earn an undergraduate degree from Bates

College in Maine and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Chicago.

A Baptist minister, he served as president of Morehouse College in Atlanta from 1940 to 1967. Along the way, he never shied from speaking his mind about injustices, and he served as a mentor to Martin Luther King Jr. and many other black leaders.

In his autobiography, written in 1971, Mays had few kind words for the leaders of his home state. One of his strongest childhood memories was of the fear in Epworth surrounding the Phoenix Riots in 1898. Mays was allowed to attend school only four months a year as a child, and his family felt the wrath of pervasive racism.

But before his death in 1984, Mays' attitude toward South Carolina softened. He returned to Epworth in 1981 for the naming of Mays Crossroads.

The Palmetto Conservation Foundation acquired the Mays house in 2002 and had it moved to a cleared area behind Brewer Hospital, a former nurse training facility for blacks in Greenwood.

A one-room black school used in the early 1900s also was moved to the site.



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# Bush says retirement plan of special benefit to blacks

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — As President Bush laid out his second-term agenda to a group of black pastors and community leaders at a recent meeting, one of the first subjects he raised was Social Security. Bush called his plan to restructure the program crucial to all Americans — but none more so than black Americans, who he said are shortchanged by the current system.

"The president said Social Security reform is especially important to the African-American community because it is so closely tied to life expectancies," said Michelle Bernard, senior vice president of the Independent Women's Forum.

Black Americans' life expectancy is 72.3 years — more than five years shorter than for whites. Black men die even sooner, living an average of 68.8 years, compared with 75.1 years for white men. It is a disparity Bush has highlighted.

"If you really think about that, you have people putting money in the system that aren't — families won't benefit from the system," Bush said last month in an interview. "And, therefore, it seems to me to make sense, if I were a part of a group of people that were being disadvantaged by the Social Security system, that I'd at least like to have the opportunity to have some of the money I put in the system passable to my family."

**"Anything that gives African-Americans more financial freedom... is good."**

**Robert Johnson**  
SET founder

It is an argument some have found compelling. They say personal accounts would allow workers who die before they are old enough to collect benefits to leave at least a modest nest egg for their heirs.

"Private accounts could be a plus to anyone whose demographics suggest they are in the workforce, they pay contributions, but they pass on before they are able to draw down benefits," said

Gwendolyn King, a former Social Security commissioner who served on a panel that recommended the creation of the accounts.

Also, supporters say the accounts would expose a generation of low- and middle-income blacks to the wealth-building power of the stock market. "Anything that gives African-Americans more financial freedom... is good," said Robert Johnson, founder and chief executive of Black Entertainment Television.

But critics such as Maya Rockey-Moore, vice president of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, note the accounts would be subject to the whims of the stock market. And, she said, blacks are more likely than whites to collect from Social Security's disability and survivor programs.

A 2003 report by the Government Accountability Office concluded that blacks tend to receive a higher rate of return than whites from Social Security because of their heavier reliance on the program's full range of benefits.



THE DENVER POST/AP

Annette Williams of Detroit rides a snowboard at Lionshead in Vail, Colo., last week for the National Brotherhood of Skiers annual summit.

## Black skiers lifted by unity at summit

By DOUGLAS BROWN  
The Denver Post

DENVER — Snow and slopes officially brought them to Vail last week, but for the thousands of blacks who traveled to the resort for the National Brotherhood of Skiers annual summit, having a good time was the draw.

"It's like a giant family reunion," said Ben Rosa, 44, a senior executive at IBM who lives in Ridgefield, Conn.

The NBS, a 10,000-member alliance of black ski clubs — the largest ski organization in the world — brings 4,000 or more skiers to a different resort every year, pumping as much as \$5 million into the local economy during the week-long event.

"The summit is the biggest of all" ski gatherings, said Chris Jarrot, vice president of marketing and sales at Vail Resorts, which is hosting the summit.

Added Ian Anderson, spokesman for the Vail Valley Chamber and Tourism Bureau: "It's the kind of group that everyone is thrilled to have here because there is a lot of positive energy, and generally

this is one group that spends a lot of money in town."

Black skiers represented about 1.2 percent of all 57.1 million visits to ski resorts during the 2003-04 season, said David Becher, a research analyst with RRC Associates in Boulder, a market research firm that does work for the ski industry.

Becher said the percentage of black skiers on the slopes has been between 1 percent and 2 percent since the firm started collecting data a few years ago.

About 2,000 registered NBS members came to Vail for this year's summit, and an estimated 2,000 more who aren't members came, too, said Andrea Yowman, the current NBS president.

By bringing blacks from around the country, the summit transforms its host resort from a tangle of slopes, restaurants and hotels dense with white faces into something else: a ski resort where being black doesn't mean being alone.

"Normally, when we go together, we are the only black people on the whole mountain," said Bryan Calhoun, 34, from Atlanta.



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### Bill would rename roads for civil rights victims

JACKSON, Miss. — Stretches of Mississippi highways in three counties would be renamed for victims of the nation's most infamous civil rights killings under a bill approved Thursday by the state Senate.

A stretch of Mississippi 19 near Philadelphia, believed to be the site of the murders of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner, would be renamed for the three civil rights workers ambushed by the Ku Klux Klan in 1964. A reputed former Klansman, Edgar Ray Killen, was recently indicted in the case.

The bill would also rename a portion of U.S. 49 East in Leflore and Tallahatchie counties the Emmett Till Memorial Highway, after the black teen who was beaten to death in 1955, allegedly for whistling at a white woman. That case has been reopened by prosecutors.

From The Associated Press

# 'We're going to all be together soon'

## Sweethearts reunite family 26 years after giving up child

BY PAULINE ARRILLAGA

The Associated Press

EVERETT, Wash. — He held his son only once, in a sterile office at Catholic Services a week after the boy's birth on Oct. 25, 1977.

Bart Stokes gazed into the eyes as blue as his own, and covered his boy's cheeks in kisses.

"You're coming home with me son, son," he whispered. "Daddy loves you. We're going to all be together soon."

He was still a child himself, a junior in high school with shoulder-length hair and a lanky teenage frame, hardly the picture of a father.

But a father was all Bart dreamed of becoming. That, and a husband to his girl, Brenda.

He had it all worked out in his head. He cherished Brenda Litzo, had even proposed before they ever learned she was pregnant.

Yet even the best intentions can fall by the wayside when those older and wiser have other plans in mind. Brenda's parents had already made adoption arrangements, and she was too scared to fight them.

They were told the family was Catholic and lived somewhere in metropolitan Seattle. They had one other child, a 13-year-old boy.

"We can have more kids," Bren-

da promised him. "We'll always be together."

Bart never understood why Brenda went along with the adoption, but once their baby was gone, the couple argued endlessly. Bart dropped out of school and, by Christmas, Brenda had stopped returning his calls.

Both went on to marry, have children and divorce.

Then, in 2001, Bart registered his name on Classmates.com, a Web site that allows people to track down and contact former schoolmates. Brenda had registered, too. He e-mailed, but got no response.

In November 2003, following the death of one of Brenda's old friends, Bart tried writing again. Still, nothing.

One month later, Bart went into work at Boeing, where he assembles jets, and sat down at a computer. A message popped up in his inbox: "You've received a Classmates Email!"

Brenda, living in Placentia, Calif., had been between jobs, with no access to a computer. But as soon as she received Bart's note, she responded.

"I think of you every year on October 25," she wrote.

They had a long exchange about life, work and their children. At the end, she wrote, "I think of you often."

They never stopped talking again. In January 2004, she came to visit for 10 days. They would also finish the paperwork to petition a court to open Michael's adoption file.

Then a chance conversation with a stranger at a car dealership accelerated the search for their son.

Brenda told her story: that she was in town to reunite with her high school sweetheart and they were hoping to find the son they had put up for adoption.

How old was the child? asked the woman, Michelle Abbott.

Twenty-six, said Brenda: born Oct. 25, 1977.

What a coincidence, Abbott told her. She had a cousin born the very same day. And he was adopted.

Brenda asked: Does he have any brothers or sisters? Just one, Abbott said. A brother, 13 years older.

The families quickly put two-and-two together.

Andy, living in Scottsdale, Ariz., phoned Abbott, who in turn told Bart and Brenda their son was waiting to hear from them.

On Feb. 6, 2004 — just two months after their own reunion — the couple arrived in Scottsdale.

For the first time in more than



Bart Stokes, right, and Brenda Litzo hug their son, Andy Fenkner, during a tearful reunion on Feb. 6, 2004, in Scottsdale, Ariz. Stokes and Litzo were teenagers in 1977 when they had Fenkner and were forced to give him up for adoption.

26 years, Bart and Brenda held their child.

Their second night together, Brenda told Andy she had something to ask. On Oct. 1, 2005 — the anniversary of when the high school sweethearts started dating — Bart and Brenda plan to finally marry.

Andy said yes, of course, he would walk his mom down the aisle.

This past November, Brenda and Bart welcomed a second child into the world.

Andy had flown in just to be there. Once in the hospital room, he sat to the side, filming everything, while Bart prepared to deliver his child.

As the infant's cries suddenly filled the room, Andy called her by the name his parents allowed him to choose.

"My little baby sister, Madison,"

Brenda and Bart beamed at their daughter, at their son, at each other — their family, finally together.

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## YOUR MONEY

## Assess life-insurance needs before separation

BY MITCH SWANDA

Special to Stars and Stripes

As most servicemembers know, separating from the military is more complicated than trading in camos for khakis. Transitioning to the civilian world can be a challenge, but it also can be an opportunity to revisit your plan to build financial security for the future. If separation is in your sights, don't overlook the need to replace one of the most important benefits you receive in the military — life insurance.

While on active duty, you are covered by Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI), which provides \$250,000 of life insurance coverage for you and the option to purchase \$100,000 coverage on your spouse. Since SGLI coverage does not extend beyond your military service, it's important to start shopping for a replacement life insurance policy at least three months before your separation date to ensure your loved ones remain protected.

One option is to convert your SGLI policy to five-year renewable term coverage with Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI), which will provide coverage up to \$250,000.

While some people, particularly those in poor health, may find VGLI coverage to be a good value, those who are healthy may find that VGLI costs are high when compared with a commercial life insurance policy.

If you choose to explore life insurance options with other insurers, the first step is to determine how much coverage is right for you. Consider the following key areas:

**Coverage for you**

A general rule of thumb is that adequate life insurance protection should cover seven to 10 times your annual income, though more thorough calculations are recommended before purchasing a policy. Speaking with an insurance professional or financial advisor will help you estimate what immediate and ongoing expenses your family would have to cover if your income were lost.

A professional also can guide you in deciding whether a "term" or "permanent" life insurance policy best suits your goals. If you are a single adult with no dependents and no debt, you may discover that your best option is to forgo life insurance altogether.

**Coverage for spouses**

Even if your spouse doesn't earn an income, he or she is an important part of your family's financial security. The monetary cost of replacing household contributions such as child care, meal

**Two types of coverage**

**Term insurance:** Term insurance is similar to what you currently have through SGLI, although SGLI is only in force while you are on active duty. The policy amount is paid to your beneficiaries upon your death. This is known as a "death benefit." Coverage is for a contracted period or term; usually a specified number of years, or up to a specified age. Generally, term insurance gives you the largest immediate death benefit for the lowest premium dollar.

**Permanent insurance:** Within the framework of permanent insurance are Whole Life, Universal Life and Variable Universal Life. These types of policies are known as "cash value" insurance, where a portion of your premium goes into a cash fund that may grow every year on a tax-deferred basis. Upon your death, your beneficiaries receive the death benefit, which may be larger than the original policy amount. Premiums for permanent insurance are normally higher than those for term insurance.

Source: USAA

preparation and household tasks would be significant, and could be offset by even a minimal life insurance policy.

**Coverage for children**

The military began offering free coverage for servicemembers' children under SGLI in 2001. To replace this coverage, you may want to consider adding a "child rider" to your new policy. A child rider provides coverage for your children while they are dependent on you, and guarantees they will have the op-



Photos courtesy of USAA

**Above:** Servicemembers separating from the military have life insurance options available depending on personal needs. A "child rider" will cover children while they are dependents. **Below:** Coverage is available for both you and your spouse, even if your spouse does not earn an income.

tion of purchasing their own policies when they reach age 25, regardless of their health at that time.

**Replacing DIC**

In addition to SGLI, servicemembers also receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) coverage through the military. DIC is designed to assist surviving spouses and depen-

dent children of veterans whose deaths result from service-connected events while on active duty.

Depending on your salary and number of dependents, DIC can provide a significant monthly income over and above the lump sum from SGLI. Since DIC benefits are not available to you upon leaving the military (unless payments had already started prior to separation), you'll want to fac-

tor this potential income into your new life insurance policy.

Next, be sure to comparison shop your policy to help ensure you obtain the best product and price. Establishing life insurance coverage can be the beginning of a long-term relationship with the insurance company you choose, which means that selecting the right insurer is as important as purchasing the right type and level of coverage. Look for a company with excellent financial strength (measured by ratings agencies such as A.M. Best Company) and a track record of fair claims handling.

If you decide to purchase a new policy, apply before your separation date because it can take up to two months to underwrite a life insurance policy. And be sure not to cancel SGLI until the new policy has been issued and the first premium has been paid. Life insurance medical exams can sometimes uncover an unknown medical condition that could affect your insurability with a new provider.

Taking the time now to weigh your life insurance options carefully can help ensure financial peace of mind as you begin your civilian life.

Mitch Swanda is a salaried certified financial planner practitioner with USAA Financial Planning Services, one of the USAA family of companies. USAA is a diversified insurance and financial services organization that has served the military community since 1922. Swanda also served six years on active duty in the U.S. Navy.







## Child locked in cage

**MINN.** ST. PAUL — A mother and her live-in boyfriend are accused of locking the woman's 11-year-old daughter in a chain-link dog kennel in a warehouse basement.

Deborah L. Cameron and Eric Bare appeared in Ramsey County District Court, each charged with two counts of unreasonable restraint of a child, a gross misdemeanor.

Cameron called St. Paul police Jan. 1 to say she was having problems with her daughter and asked them to remove the girl from their home.

When police arrived, they heard the girl screaming. She told them that Bare locked her in a dog cage, hit her and read her diary. Child protection officials removed the girl.

## Driver hits family twice

**CA.** SUNNYVALE — A Sunnyvale man was arrested on attempted-murder charges after he plowed his car into a family of four on a sidewalk, then returned and struck them again, injuring them all, police said.

A 5-year-old boy, his 18-month-old sister and their parents were being treated at a hospital for a range of injuries.

Police said they are still trying to determine what provoked Ngal Fung Fong, 37, to veer onto the sidewalk with his compact sedan and strike the family that was out for a stroll.

"We can find no relationship between the suspect and the victims," said Sunnyvale Police Capt. Craig Farley.

Witnesses told police they saw Fong drive into the family members and then return to hit them again as bystanders were rendering aid.

## Record popcorn sale

**PA.** GIBSONIA — Conny as it sounds, a Cub Scout has set a national record for selling popcorn.

Ryan Cenik, 10, of the Pittsburgh suburb of Richland Township, sold \$25,006 worth of Trail's End popcorn products, popping the old record in the Scouts' annual popcorn sale by about \$5,000.

Cenik more than doubled his sales with one call to ATM Corp., a company that provides mortgage lending services. The company's vice president heard the scout's pitch and decided the popcorn tins would make perfect gifts for employees. The company bought \$13,500 worth of popcorn.

Ryan took the phone away from his ear, looked up and said, "Mom, he wants 450 of the three-way tins," his mother, Colleen Cenik, said. "I got on the extension to make sure there was no misunderstanding."

All told, Cenik sold about 10 tons of popcorn.

## Spotlight quiets chatter

**ID.** ATHOL — Green light. Red light. Lights out.

In an effort to quiet down the lunchroom chatter at Athol Elementary, a spotlight has been mounted that monitors decibel lev-



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

els and signals teachers to turn the lights out when kids get too noisy.

The spotlight is mounted on the lunchroom wall and goes from green to yellow, flashes, and then turns red.

The sound meter can be adjusted to go off at anywhere from 54 decibels to more than 100 decibels. For comparison, noise from a washing machine is about 75 decibels.

The move comes because of the lunchroom's poor acoustics and tile floors. "The sound doesn't have anything to soak into," Principal Connie McGee said.

When the light turns red, the lunchroom stays dark and youngsters have to stay silent until the Talk Light resets and turns green again.

## Police officer in gang

**GA.** ATLANTA — A former police officer has pleaded guilty to a federal civil rights charge accusing him of misusing his authority and participating in a notorious drug gang's activities.

David Alan Freeman, 39, who was once named "officer of the year," admitted that he was a lieutenant in the Diablos gang and misused his police authority to help in the abduction of a rival gang member who was severely beaten, said Patrick Crosby, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office.

Crosby said Freeman, a nine-year Atlanta police veteran and former student government president at Georgia State Univer-

sity, also admitted taking part in the gang's activities, including crimes such as robbery and drug trafficking.

Freeman grew up in an area where the Diablos gang operated in Atlanta, official said.

He faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine when he is sentenced May 6, Crosby said.

## Rolling U-Haul party

**SC.** ROCK HILL — Police found more than they bargained for when they stopped a U-Haul truck with a burned-out taillight.

Instead of furniture in the back, police on Monday found a rolling keg party with about 20 people drinking whiskey and beer.

Eleven people were charged with underage drinking.

"They all kind of froze and didn't know what to do, I guess," officer Robert Marshall said.

The partygoers told police they rented the truck for someone's 21st birthday party because the bars were closed. The moving party was traveling streets without a particular destination.

The truck's driver was charged with reckless driving because the people in the back could have been injured, police said. Officers asked the partygoers to call for rides and no one was arrested.

## Quake rattles Arkansas

**AR.** CARAWAY — A small earthquake struck portions of northeastern Arkansas on Thursday, rattling windows and nerves but causing no immediate damage.

A preliminary report from the Earthquake Hazards Program of the U.S. Geological Survey said the 8:05 a.m. quake was centered four miles east of Caraway and had a magnitude of 3.9. A quake of magnitude 4 can cause moderate damage.

The quake occurred at a depth of 9.5 miles in the New Madrid seismic zone.

The tremor was felt as far away as Blytheville, 22 miles to the northeast.

## Burglars pick mansions

**CT.** GREENWICH — In this gated world of great riches, wealth is protected behind high stone walls, intercoms, security cameras and warning signs. And still burglars are managing to break into the mansions of Greenwich.

About 15 homes have been burglarized in the past few months in Greenwich, many in the town's so-called back country where celebrities and corporate executives live.

The burglars have taken at least \$750,000 worth of expensive jewelry, fur coats, cash, credit cards and cameras. They have an eye for the finer things, leaving behind inexpensive jewelry.

Authorities suspect the Greenwich break-ins were carried out by the same burglars, and believe they are operating in at least four other states: New York, New Jersey, Virginia and Maryland.

None of the town's famous residents, who include actors Ron Howard and Mel Gibson, have been victimized, police say.



## Playing keep-away

Keara Turner, 3, tries to get a basketball from her brother, Khalil Davis, 10, while playing on the courts of Anderson, S.C.



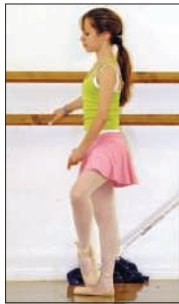
## Barnyard turf war

A farm dog barks at a herd of cattle in a pen on the Baumgartner farm east of Pearl City, Ill.



## Snowfall in Kentucky

A light snow covers Main Street in Danville, Ky.



## Warming up

Ballet student Krista Freeman does some warm-up exercises during her Pointe 2 class at the Academy of Ballet in Alamogordo, N.M.



Joe, Kaly and Brad Bousquet slide in South Platt Park in Plattsburgh, N.Y.

## Snow day creates more time for play



## Solemn sunrise

The rising sun lights up the sky behind the soldiers of a World War II Memorial on a cold, quiet morning at Capitol Lake in Pierre, S.D.



## Fun on the ice

Whitefish Lake in Whitefish, Mont.

Jonas Magstadt, 15, left, keeps the puck away from 15-year-old Tyler Gardner, center, and 16-year-old Kris Archer, right, while playing ice hockey on Whitefish Lake in Whitefish, Mont.

## Colors of crime

**MT** LIVINGSTON — Sheriff Clark Carpenter says identifying inmates should be a black and white matter, so he's color-coordinating uniforms based on crime.

The Park County Detention Center is outfitting inmates charged with felonies in black and white prison stripe uniforms.

Carpenter said he got the idea on a trip to Canada, when he saw a work crew on the side of the highway in black and white striped clothing.

"It left no question in my mind who those guys were and what they're doing," Carpenter said.

For years, Park County inmates have worn solid orange uniforms, which can be identical to work clothes worn by some road crews.

## Tough baby

**ME** LEE — Nicholas Chandonait is only 5 weeks old, but has endured five surgeries. And there are more on the way.

Nicholas was born Jan. 3 with a complex congenital heart defect and a collapsed diaphragm. During one procedure at Maine Medical Center in Portland, his heart stopped beating and he was dead for one minute, said his mother, Amy Chandonait, 26, of Lee.

Nicholas is able to breathe on his own in the hospital's pediatric intensive care unit, but he must be fed through a feeding tube in his nose, his mother said. A big scar runs across his breastbone. He has had several blood transfusions, has a shunt in his heart and is on several medications.

Yet Chandonait sees signs of strength in Nicholas, who weighs 6 pounds, 3 ounces, and has a shock of thick, dark hair.

"He is actually doing really well now, considering how many surgeries he has had," Chandonait said. "For what he has been through, he looks wonderful."

## Underwater discovery

**CA** SANTA BARBARA — Scientists have discovered a new species of coral off the southern California coast that flames like a pink and white Christmas tree, as well as a new species of worm that lives off it.

Milton Love, a marine biologist at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and colleagues from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration made the discoveries in 2002 while making fish surveys hundreds of feet below the Channel Islands.

A Tennessee lab determined the new species is a type of black coral — the color it turns when it dies.

## Underwater photog dies

**HI** HONOLULU — A well-known underwater photographer drowned Wednesday while taking surf pictures at Banzai Pipeline.

Jon Mozo, 33, was swimming and taking photos of surfers under a clear afternoon sky. The sequence of events leading to his death are unclear. Mozo had head injuries and no pulse after he was pulled from the water by an off-duty lifeguard and others, Fire Capt. Kenison Tejada said. He was pronounced dead at Kahuiku Hospital.

The surf at Pipeline was not especially big, but the swell was off of the west, which indicates an extremely strong current, said fellow surf photographer Bernie Baker.

In January 1993, a shark attacked Mozo while he was surfing near Maalekahana. Mozo received 30 stitches on each foot to close the gashes from the attack.

## Surgical mishap

**NC** WILMINGTON — A doctor may have performed the wrong type of gastric bypass surgery on more than 50 patients at a Wilmington hospital, officials said.

Dr. Steven E. Olchowski performed the surgeries between December 2000 and the spring of 2002 at New Hanover Regional Medical Center, which is facing eight malpractice lawsuits stemming from the weight-loss operations.

The lawsuits claim Olchowski told patients he would perform a gastric bypass surgery known as Roux-en-Y, which usually is covered by health insurance. According to the lawsuits, he performed minigastric bypass, which usually is not covered. The difference between the surgeries is how the stomach and intestines are attached. Attorneys for six of the patients said their clients had serious complications such as stomach ulcers and required a second surgery to convert the bypass into a Roux-en-Y.

## Theater revitalization

**SD** LEAD — A historical society has reached a deal to buy an opera house complex that was built by a mining company more than 90 years ago but nearly destroyed in a 1984 fire.

The Historic Homestead Opera House Society will buy the theater and a retail area from Jerikodi Inc., which had been working with the society on the theater renovations, society President Jacques Fuller said.

The society, created in 1997 to develop the restoration plan and organize programming at the theater, decided it needed to own the building itself to make fund-raising easier.

## Tattle-totallers

**RI** HANOVER — Police are turning to a telephone tip line to try to stop teen drinking.

The idea is to allow people to leave anonymous tips about underage drinking parties.

"It's not that the main intent is getting people busted," said Hanover Community Counselor Dena Romero. "The most important thing is keeping people safe."

Callers who dial (603) 643-PARTY can leave a message, without having to give their name. "There's no caller ID, so people can call and it truly can be anonymous," said Police Chief Nick Giaccone.

The voice-mail system pages a dispatcher, who listens to the message. If the message is about an upcoming party at a Hanover home, a police officer will call the parents or homeowner and ask if they were aware of the party, Giaccone said. The officer also will inform them about underage drinking laws.

If police believe that the party is still going to happen, they will patrol the area, Giaccone said.

Stories and photos from wire services





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KRT

Don't sell these performers short because of their looks. Avril Lavigne (bottom left), Norah Jones (left), Sheryl Crow (upper left) and Alicia Keys (above) have talent that should stand the test of time.

**Q** Pop singers like Jessica Simpson, Britney Spears and Jennifer Lopez can't hold a candle to voices from the past like Ella Fitzgerald. Where are today's song stylists? — Ray Scott, Coeur D'Alene, Idaho

**A** We agree that Jessica, Britney and J.Lo have limited range and interpretive abilities. But give a listen to Norah Jones, Alicia Keys, Avril Lavigne and Sheryl Crow. All are Billboard chart-toppers whose talents are more than skin-deep.

**Q** Doesn't former boxing champ George Foreman have anything better to do than hawk grills? — Dan Nanni, Aspen, Colo.

**A** In fact, he does. Foreman, 56, invites disadvantaged kids to his Texas ranch. "I grew up watching Roy Rogers films and fantasizing about riding the range," he says. "Now I raise exotic horses." You can see George in the saddle next Saturday on the DIY Network's "Celebrity Hobbies."

**Q** What's the first name of Newman, the postman on Seinfeld? — Marilyn Davidson, Burlington, Wis.

**A** Newman never had a first name, Seinfeld co-creator Larry David tells us. The rotund postman — played by Wayne Knight, 49 — was called "Norman" by a woman in an episode titled "The Bottle Deposit." But that was an error, left in because it was funny.

**Q** I'm a big fan of Court TV's forensic-science show "Body of Evidence." Is host Dayle Hinman still an active criminal profiler? — Frances Rosenbaum, New York, N.Y.

**A** No. Hinman, 52, retired as a special agent and coordinator of Florida's criminal analysis/profiling program. "I was one of just 23 female profilers in the world," she tells us. "I trained 19 years ago with the FBI." Now she trains profilers for an international group, and Court TV just signed her for three more seasons.

**Q** My friend says the first song performed on a televised Grammy show was "Joy to the World." I say it was "Everything Is Beautiful." Who's right? — Betty Hawari, San Pedro, Calif.

**A** You are. The Osmonds kicked off the first live national Grammy telecast in 1971 with "Everything Is Beautiful." And one man — Pierre Cossette — has produced every Grammy show since then. "I can't read music or carry a tune," Cossette, 80, tells us. "But I have a great ear, which I got from my mother, who was a concert pianist." The Grammys air Sunday on CBS stateside. Check your schedule for AFN programming plans.

**Q** Before our invasion in March 2003, did anyone in the military warn Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld that he didn't have enough boots on the ground to pacify Iraq after the war? — Dean L., Austin, Texas

**A** Yes. Army chief of staff Gen. Eric Shinkei, 62, said it would take "several hundred thousand soldiers" — not the 140,000 Rumsfeld planned. Rumsfeld already had made Shinkei a lame duck (he retired in June 2003), and this added to the antipathy between the two.

**Q** I caught "The Dog Whisperer" on the National Geographic Channel. Is its star, Cesar Millan, really that good? — Janice Grace, Tempe, Ariz.

**A** Yes. As a farmboy in Mexico, Cesar vowed to become the world's best dog trainer. After a season on "Dog Whisperer," he has convinced a legion of followers. "Humans must make their dogs work for affection," he tells us. "My rules are: first exercise, then discipline, then affection." When not on TV, Millan, 35, practices canine rehabilitation at The Dog Psychology Center of Los Angeles.

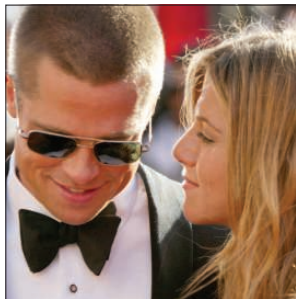
**Q** What is Eva Marie Saint, one of my favorite stars, up to these days? — Teresa Martino, New York, N.Y.

**A** Still vibrant at 80, she stars with Jeff Daniels in the film "Because of Winn-Dixie," opening this week. Next up is "Don't Come Knocking," a movie with Sam Shepard. "I don't believe in retiring," says Saint, who's best remembered as the innocent Edie in 1954's "On the Waterfront." "You live longer if you keep going."

**Q** Now that Jennifer Aniston and Brad Pitt have gone their separate ways, who'll get their \$13 million Beverly Hills mansion? — Natalie Young, Los Angeles, Calif.

**A** Maybe neither of them. Renovating that mansion (with its baby nursery) was a two-year labor of love for Pitt, 41, who dreamed of raising a family there. Aniston, 36, reportedly has moved out already. Who knows? Brad may feel the same way about a place with such sad memories. He still has a Hollywood Hills house that Jen never liked.

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KRT

Brad and Jen's assets, including their \$11 million Beverly Hills mansion, are still up for grabs.

## Sunday Horoscope

Hunger dictates the value of things under the Taurus moon. The longer a desire goes unsatisfied, the stronger it gets and the more willing you'll be to pay for satisfaction. The Taurus lunar influence stimulates the appetite for beauty and luxury, making us aware of our sensual nature. Here you're tempted by indulging in food and entertainment.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** The law of spiritual detachment applies in obvious ways now. By clinging too readily to the outcome you desire in a relationship, you may be blocking something better from occurring. Loosen your grip!

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** Events happen to shake you up and switch the emotional in your head. Anything you have been doing in a repetitious and predictable way will be observed on a conscious level. The result is a mind-blowing breakthrough.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21)** Your sense of entitlement has wavered between the extremes of feeling unworthy and feeling "all that." A sweet extravagance is offered to you, but will you take it? The choice sets a tone for your entire week.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22)** Intuitively, you create a structure for yourself from which it will be difficult to break free. Perhaps you sign up for a course or enroll in a class of a tough discipline. The benefits of rigorous teaching are numerous.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** In some way, you are singing in the rain—voicing a happy tone in spite of inconsequence or discordant, it's just one of the ways you enforce and nurture your outstanding character.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (February 13)** You are utterly energized by your activities this year, doing what you love and loving what you do. The energetic flow starts with changes you make in the next seven weeks. Swift and specific decisions allow you to maximize your talents and make money in an enjoyable way. Motivational and loving signs include Pisces and Virgo. Your lucky numbers are 20, 50, 45, and 12.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** A realization: You may notice for the

first time that you are involved in an ongoing way in a task that is not worthy of you. List the pros and cons of the situation on paper, and send it to the stars.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)**

Tired of introspection, you now are eager to throw the attention off of yourself and onto a project. You still feel like leaning back and watching this study, though—you can't get around it now.

### Holiday Maths

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)** The spotlight is on your inner being, who emerges with a sideways smirk, ready to prove you are not only capable but stylish and snappy. A checklist ensures you've got the bases covered.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** You're feisty! Be aware you could be intimidating those who don't know you well. This feisty won't stop you from meeting challenge in your usual way—head on.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Some people around you are experiencing trouble adjusting to change. You can set a tone with your actions (not your instruction).

Anyone who criticizes you just jealous, so talk to them with a grain of salt. You can't ensure with a grain of salt.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** You respect others, they respect you, and it is, as they say, "all good." So sister clear of power-tripping people who have a tendency to stir the pot for the sake of drama. You don't need it now!

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)** It's the perfect day to research your vision and make it come to life. If you can't see it, add a new dimension to your goal by painting a vivid mental picture of it awakens your desire. Without desire, motivation is lost.

**FORECAST FOR THE WEEK**

**AHEAD:** Valentine's Day is not just for lovers anymore. Venus and Neptune send an open invitation to commemorate love in its many forms, from the kinsip found in the fellowship of man to familial compassion to the elation of romance. All shades of love deserve to be honored and nurtured, if only in the act of remembering. But the monumental loves tend to be celebrated in a shower fashion under the Taurus moon, which is all about sensuality and luxury.

Creators Syndicate

## Dogs inspired islands' name

Can you settle a bet for me? Are the Canary Islands named for the cute little birds or for dogs, like my friend says?

The name Canary Islands comes from the Latin name "Canariae insulae," meaning "dog islands." According to what Pliny the Elder found in the writings of King Juba II, the king of Numidia and Mauretania who lived from 60 B.C. to A.D. 24, the group of islands that Juba explored off the northwest coast of Africa were remarkable especially for the multitude of large dogs that inhabited them. The Latin word for "dog" being "canis," the islands were named "canariae insulae" meaning "dog islands."

It's probable that neither Juba nor Pliny knew it, but the dogs on the islands were most likely brought by earlier invaders from Africa and were not indigenous. A kind of small greenish-brown bird was, however, native to the islands. Some of these birds were brought to Europe in the 16th century and were called "Canary birds" from then on. The name of the birds was shortened to "canary" over time, as the birds were bred to be the greenest and yellow birds that we know today.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, 10th Edition. Readers send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 261, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

## Woman finds prospective mate more interested in Navy career

**Dear Abby:** My boyfriend, "Lance," attends the Naval Academy in Annapolis. We have been dating seriously for a long time and have made plans to start our life together when he graduates and heads off to flight school. I intend to leave my job, my family and friends to be with him.

Recently, out of the clear blue sky, Lance told me he has second thoughts about our plans. He said his doubts stem from his concern for my best interests. He feels it would be too difficult for me to continually move over the years, and he would feel guilty asking me to sacrifice so much for him.

I was caught completely off guard. I told Lance that, because I love him so much, I want to give him this new life a chance. We talked for hours, and he decided that although he loves me very much, his life belongs to the Navy, and no one but he should make sacrifices.

Should I try to mend this relationship or let him go?

**Still in Love in Maryland**  
*Dear Still:* It's apparent that Lance gave the matter considerable thought before he discussed his change of heart with you. "Mending fences" won't work because his mind is already

made up. Speaking metaphorically, the ship has sailed, and you have been left behind. As I see it, you have no choice but to let him go. Make the break a clean one and move on.

**Dear Abby**



**Dear Abby:** My wife's brother, "George," lives with us. It was my wife's suggestion because he was homeless, and she didn't want him on the streets in the cold weather. She said she wanted him to stay with us for a few months. That was more than three years ago. I can find with this George doesn't work, so he's not help with the bills. He brings women here like it's his house. He smokes dope here and gets drunk. I don't have any of those things. He won't even mow the lawn in the summer.

I have told my wife that George is a 50-year-old man and has got to move elsewhere. She agrees, but says nothing to him. It has led to some serious arguments. I recently left the house out in our bedroom to see if it would disappear, and yes, it did. I knew it would. I am ready to leave my own home. What should I do now?

**Tired of My Brother-In-Law in North Carolina**

## A sure-fire way for prospective man to keep self from crying in public

**Dear Annie:** I recently retired from 33 years of law enforcement and am currently working in Iraq assisting the Iraqi police. I can handle blood and guts all day long, but I always have had a problem with crying when it comes to funerals, weddings or "Old Yeller," forget it.

I've tried everything from giving my lip to not attending these functions. Is there a technique I can learn to help me with this problem? I realize it's OK to be emotional once in a while, but there are times when I need to hide these feelings.

**Crying Guy**  
*Dear Crying Guy:* There's nothing wrong with being sensitive. More men are crying these days, and a large majority of them consider it quite acceptable. The bad news is there is no "cure." Wear sunglasses when you must attend functions where you anticipate getting teary.

**If that's not enough, keep a can of tin of happy or angry thoughts, and when needed, concentrate on one that will take your mind off the sadness.**

**Dear Annie:** Last year, my parents moved to my town in order to be closer to my family. I love them very much, and as they

are growing older, I feel grateful that they live nearby.

Every day, I bring my folks their mail and stay for a short visit.

The problem is Dad's smoking. He smokes in the house with the windows and doors shut. When I hit the front door, I nearly gag, and it takes everything I can muster to keep breathing. Everything they own smells like smoke.

Dad smokes outside when he visits other people, but he continues to smoke inside his house and his car. I have tried to explain how repulsive this is, but he says, "It's my house, and I'll smoke it in if I want to." Mom has a weak heart, has had two strokes and is in cardiac condition. His smoke can't possibly be good for her.

I don't want to stop visiting, but I can't handle these dreaded smoky visits much longer. What can I do?

**Smoke Shrouded in California**  
*Dear Smoke Shrouded:* Not much. It's his house and his car, and he doesn't have to listen to you. The only person who can demand that he not smoke in the house is your mother, and apparently, it doesn't bother her enough to speak up.

You are right that the situation is unhealthy for both of them, but particularly so considering Mom's

**Dear Tired:** You have done more than enough for your brother-in-law. The time has come for George to sober up, grow up, and take responsibility for himself. Since your wife can't bring herself to let her brother be just who he is, it's up to you. Set a date for him to leave and insist upon it.

**Dear Abby:** Five months ago, I became involved with a gentleman whom I met at church. He is kind and caring—everything that a girl could look for. We are compatible and get along quite well in more ways than one.

The problem is he is living with someone else, and his job takes up much of his time. When we're together the time goes by so quickly—and then I hear nothing for days on end. He tells me that he cares for me, and I can't about him, but I'm confused. Should I bite my time in the hope that things will improve?

**Conflicted on the East Coast**  
*Dear Conflicted:* Face it: Your kind, caring, compatible, churchofing guy already has a hen sitting in his nest. Unless you want to end up with egg on your face, run like the dickens. He's already taken.

Letters for this column—with your name and address—should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 698040, St. Louis, MO 63169. Readers write to Abby on the internet at <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby> or on the Press Syndicate.

## A sure-fire way for prospective man to keep self from crying in public

**heart condition.** You can give Dad some literature showing how harmful cigarette smoke is for his wife, and you might offer to get them an air purifier, but understand that the most likely is too addicted to give it up.

**Dear Annie:** My 11-year-old niece has been distributing flyers advertising her baby-sitting services around her neighborhood. The flyer states her contact information but conspicuously leaves out her young age.

Annie wouldn't want an 11-year-old taking care of my child, and I'm pretty sure if her parents knew, they wouldn't be in a rush to request her services. I think this flyer is deceptive, and I'm not sure it's OK to just keep my nose out of it?

**Battling Baby-sitting Blues in the Southeast**

**Dear Battling:** You might mention to the girl's parents that such flyers can be dangerous should one fall into the hands of a person older than the age would make it worse. Beyond that, stay out of it. Any potential child should ask your niece's address before agreeing to meet.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Mary Sauer, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [anniesmailbox@comcast.net](mailto:anniesmailbox@comcast.net), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

**Annie's Mailbox**



# RELIGION

## Talmud translated

NEW YORK — A monumental new English translation of Judaism's Talmud was presented to the Library of Congress last week, anticipating a March 15 gala in New York that marks public release of the work.

The 73-volume set comes from ArtScroll/Mesorah Publications of Brooklyn. It costs \$1,900 and is some 35,000 pages long. The "Schottenstein Edition of the Babylonian Talmud" is named for the Columbus, Ohio, department store family that sponsored the project.

ArtScroll says its English Talmud is distinguished by the comprehensive commentary provided by more than 80 scholars from various nations who worked on the series.

## Property bill dispute

RICHMOND, Va. — A bill to give congregations that leave their denominations leverage to retain control of their properties has died in Virginia's state Senate.

Sponsoring Sen. William Mims recommended that the measure be referred back to a law committee, effectively killing it Monday, but said he hoped the issue can be reintroduced in next year's legislative session.

The bill would have allowed seceding congregations to be independent of any church, diocese or society. Currently, breakaway congregations are limited to joining another branch of their church or society.

## Va. bill clears hurdle

RICHMOND, Va. — A proposed amendment to Virginia's Constitution to open all public property — including schools to praying and other religious activities won't pass passage from a state House committee.

The proposal would alter language rooted in Virginia's 1786 Statute for Religious Freedom. The amendment says, "The people's right to pray and to recognize their religious beliefs, heritage and traditions on public property, including public schools, shall not be infringed." Though government cannot compose or lead prayers or require anyone to participate in religious activity.

## Same-sex blessings

WILMINGTON, N.C. — Delegates in the East Carolina Diocese urged the national Episcopal Church to enact moratoriums on same-sex blessing ceremonies and the consecration of actively gay bishops, as recommended in a report that world Anglican Communion leaders will be discussing in Northern Ireland later this month.

That report was responding to the 2003 consecration of New Hampshire's openly gay bishop, Gene Robinson, along with subsequent divisions over homosexuality in the Episcopal Church and worldwide Anglicanism.

From The Associated Press



Right: Glenn Smith talks about his teaching technique at his School of Western Ministries in Midland, Texas, last month. Smith trains aspiring cowboy ministers. Above: Smith and his wife, Ann, pray with rodeo rider Matt Reid during a break. Each student pays \$1,200 tuition for instruction geared toward "those called to minister in any and every area of the 'Western world,'" according to the school's Web site.



# 'Preaching Jesus, Western style'

## Former rodeo clown teaches aspiring cowboy ministers

BY BOBBY ROSS JR.  
The Associated Press

MIDLAND, Texas — "Preaching Jesus, Western style," declares the sign out front.

Across the street from a flea market, in the shadow of oil wells and tumbleweeds, Glenn Smith trains aspiring cowboy ministers in a building that looks more like a steakhouse than a seminary.

"These boys and girls will come out of here full-fledged ministers, but they'll be ministers that look like I do," said Smith, 70, sporting a \$500 Resista hat and \$600 ostrich skin boots. At the School of Western Ministries, pickup-driving pupils don colorful cowboy shirts, Wrangler jeans and belt buckles with messages such as "Jesus Christ: Champion of Champions." (As Smith explained, nobody puts on a suit and tie and then goes out to get cow, um, "stuff" all over them.) From Alabama to Australia, students come to West Texas to study how to teach the Bible in places where a barn might double as a sanctuary.

Matt Reid, a 30-year-old saddle bronc rider from Cullman, Ala., said he came to learn from down-to-earth scholars who speak his language.

"These folks, they're not very religious," Reid said. "It's more like, they believe a relationship with Jesus is the best thing. You don't get all churchified."

Or, as Smith describes it: "If you want to catch a catfish, you use catfish bait. But usually, you can't catch a bass with catfish bait."

As he sees it, the same principle applies to ministering to the "Western world," a population turned off, he believes, by holier-than-thou preachers.

The former professional bull rider and rodeo clown leads a cowboy worship service each Sunday at the International Western World Outreach Center, the Midland-based ministry that he and his wife, Ann, oversee.

The type of folks who attend would not fit in at the First Baptist Church, the First Methodist Church or the First Assembly of God, he said. On Sunday morning, when traditional churchfolk occupy pews, they're baling hay and tending cattle.

"So what we're trying to train these kids to do is what I've done for 30 years, and that is to actually go out in the backwoods where no one cares," he said. "And we have church services in barns, rodeo arenas, Holiday Inn ball-

**"We have church services in barns, rodeo arenas, Holiday Inn ballrooms, out under shade trees in the summertime."**

Glenn Smith  
founder, School of Western Ministries

rooms, out under shade trees in the summertime."

Smith's ministry even prints its own Bibles — King James versions with drawings of cowboys on the front and back.

The idea is that a macho cowboy might be more apt to throw such a Bible on his pickup dash than an official-looking one with a black cover.

"Somebody said, 'Well, aren't you afraid that God doesn't like that?'" Smith said. "I said, 'Well, in 30 years, he hasn't told me.' I figured if it had tied him off, he would have at least let me know."

The Smiths started the School of Western Ministries last year with an inaugural class of 16. Twenty students enrolled for this year's session, which started last month.

"It's great for the young people," said Tim Kelly, 44, who works with Rodeo Cowboy Ministries in Kingaroy, Australia. "When we started at home, there was nothing like this. So we just had to learn as we went."

Each student pays \$1,200 tuition for 17 weeks of instruction geared toward "those called to minister in any and every area of the 'Western world' — be it ... farm and ranch, horse events ... stock shows, and all associated activities and occupations," according to the school's Web site.

They learn from instructors such as Neil Cassata, a cowboy minister from Groesbeck, Texas, who offers commonsense advice such as, "Your opinion and 27 cents will get you a refill at Dairy Queen. Don't give people your opinion. Give them the word of God."

But in the same recent lesson, Cassata delved into the New Testament book of Revelation and issues of rapture and tribulation.

"A lot of people who don't know the Lord will say, 'Man, what's going to happen at the end of the world?'" Cassata said. "So the students need to at least have a basic overview ... so that they can tell people ..."

Pat Cramton, 48, decided to attend the school, even though it meant being apart from her husband and kids for about four months.

Cramton, whose family keeps 300 cows on a 5,000-acre ranch in Pretty Prairie, Kan., said she grew up in a traditional church where "you sing your hymn and you sit down." But she believes people are looking for a different worship experience.

"I just really would like to open an outdoor ministry for churches to bring people out to the pastures and just worship God in a pasture," Cramton said. "Sometimes, I think we get so busy in life, we don't go out and see the beauty of creation and all that God made."







## OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

### Why does South suffer so? The Times-Picayune, New Orleans

Stroke is a big killer in this country — only heart disease and cancer claim more lives — but it's not an indiscriminate one: Southerners make up a disproportionate number of stroke deaths.

A national study presented at the International Stroke Conference in Birmingham, Ala., revealed striking regional and racial disparities. White people who live in the South are 29 percent more likely to die of a stroke than white Americans who live elsewhere. The difference is even greater for African-Americans who live in the South: they are 51 percent more likely to die of a stroke than their counterparts in other regions.

Unfortunately, the study doesn't shed any light on why living in the South increases the risk of stroke death, although diet and exercise habits could have something to do with it. ...

Researchers need to figure out precisely why Southerners are more likely to succumb to strokes, but in the meantime, Southerners, both black and white, need to understand this killer and what to do when it strikes.

### Liberty valued when issue is The Des Moines (Iowa) Register

According to a recent opinion poll, many American high school students are OK with the idea that the government should be able to approve news stories before they are understood in the marketplace. This is shocking, but it's nothing new, and it's probably not all that surprising if you think about it.

For as many years have found a sizable percentage of Americans — young and old — ambivalent about the free-press protections guaranteed by the First Amendment.

Some accuse schools of failing to teach kids about these things.

But whereas facts about the Constitution can be taught, a passionate belief in the principles enumerated in the Bill of Rights comes through experience with the consequences of authoritarian governments. ...

The best route to appreciation of liberty is to understand how you might be personally affected by losing it. Young people might answer "yes" to an abstract question about the First Amendment.

It is a pity that a poll of high school students should be free to express unpopular opinions. That's a form of free expression they know — and care — about.

### Wrong to single out smokers Observer-Dispatch, Utica, N.Y.

Quitting time has taken on a new new meaning at one Midwestern company. Jan. 1, Weyco Inc.'s health benefits administrator, went smoke free. Good news for employees' health.

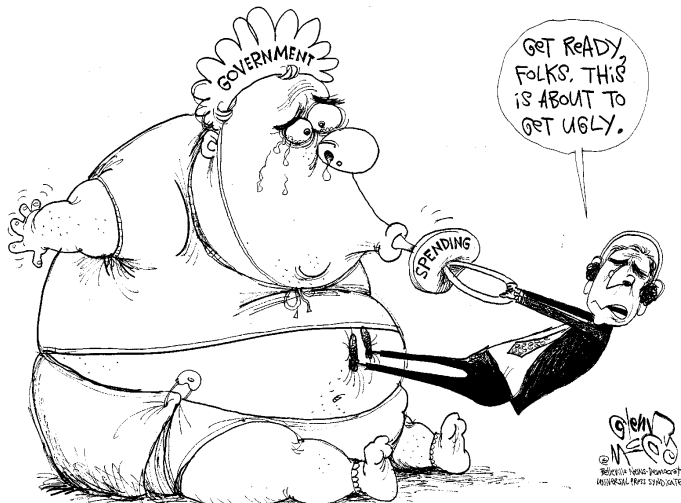
But this no-smoking policy goes way beyond the office door.

Employees who smoke, even at home, will be fired. Bad news for employees' rights.

Weyco's 200 employees were fired last month for refusing to take a test to determine if they had been smoking. The company now performs random testing to ensure compliance with its policy.

Yes, smoking causes health problems. But so does obesity. So does unsafe sex. And so can downhill skiing, sky diving, dune bugging, and the like. It's up to you and your home's gatekeeper and cleaning out your home's gutters.

Which ones should get you fired? Exact-



ly how much of what you do should your employer control? ...

But Weyco President Howard Weyers' attempt to dictate his employees off-work behavior is disturbing, particularly because it's perfectly legal. Michigan is one of 29 states that have so-called "at-will" employment laws. That means employees can be fired for virtually any reason or no reason at all.

Legal scholars say the only reason state Legislatures don't put a stop to at-will laws is there is no strong lobbying effort to get it done. Maybe this will light a fire under some people. It should.

### Budget week on the weakest The Anniston (Ala.) Star

The rules still apply: we can't fund a war, secure the nation in a post-Sept. 11 world, hand out tax cuts that favor high-income brackets and stay out of the red. Something must give, and it looks like the "least of these" are the ones who will be shortchanged if President Bush gets his way.

Cuts to programs for the poor are in vogue. The Department of Housing and Urban Development loses 11.5 percent from last year's budget. Cities and counties will feel the pinch as community development assistance is trimmed by 4.5 percent. The loss of \$45 billion in Medicaid will hurt states, forcing them to pick up more of the medical bill for poor residents. The president also proposes cutting \$1.1 billion from the food stamp budget. ...

Speaking Monday, the president said his "is a budget that sets priorities." A president whose speeches are richly flavored with words urging compassion and care for the needy can set better priorities.

### Death-benefits hike was due The Times Herald-Record, Middletown, N.Y.

Amid all the debate over the war in Iraq and President Bush's handling of it, there is one thing on which most Americans would probably agree: Up to now, the government has been inexcusably stingy in compensating the families of U.S. servicemen and -women who died fighting that war.

Current law provides for a \$12,420 death benefit to a surviving spouse or family of a servicemember who dies in a combat area.

This is better than the \$6,000 death benefit that prevailed until 2003, but even with other benefits available to surviving families, it is hardly appropriate recompense for those whose loved ones make the greatest sacrifice.

In fact, at their time of greatest loss, the current benefit would barely cover a family's burial expenses, something the government does not do. ...

The president has proposed rectifying the situation by significantly expending death benefits to those who die or are killed in a combat zone. Congress is not only in agreement, many members think the president's proposal should be extended to all members of the armed forces, whether they die in a war zone or not.

Indeed, generosity should prevail. ... The president is right to recommend this change in death benefits. Congress, in a display of nonpartisan national gratitude, should make it even more generous by granting it to all men and women in uniform.

### Trains should run safely The Sun News, Myrtle Beach, S.C.

For almost half a century, railroads have been the slighted child of the nation's transportation network, back-seated by a coast-to-coast interstate road system and commercial jet service.

Very little attention has been paid to railroads, despite that they remain the transportation lifeblood for many industries across the country.

Last month's awful train collision in Graniteville (S.C.) may have opened some eyes. A moving train hit a parked train and released a plume of chlorine gas on unsuspecting residents. It was the nation's worst chemical spill since 1978. Nine people died and 550 were injured, while some 5,400 residents were evacuated for several days.

Most experts say electronic switching devices, rather than the manual switches still in use, might have prevented the wreck. ... Our railway system is outdated, much of it running on a technology that is decades old. The demise of passenger service, save for limited Amtrak runs, has diverted all

sense of urgency from making railroads safe. Many tracks and switching stations are worn and vulnerable.

The nation has an obligation to make sure railroads get the same attention as other forms of transportation.

### U.S. can aid Mideast peace The Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel

During his first term, President Bush's administration often took a hands-off approach to the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. Finally, and fortunately, that is changing.

Mr. Bush has invited Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to the White House for separate meetings. And new Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice made a statement about the administration's foreign-policy priorities for the new term by meeting with Mr. Sharon and Mr. Abbas during her first trip overseas. ...

No matter how dedicated Mr. Sharon and Mr. Abbas might be to peace, they are bound to run into roadblocks. By remaining engaged with the United States can help them reach their elusive but essential goal.

### More cleanup, less court time The Daily News, Longview, Wash.

Washington's battle to keep the federal government from turning the Hanford nuclear reservation into a toxic waste dump received a legal boost recently. U.S. District Judge Alan McDonald of Yakima barred the shipment of low-level radioactive waste — contaminated clothing and equipment known as transuranic waste — to Hanford unless it meets strict storage requirements set by the state.

The ruling is welcome, but it hardly qualifies as a big victory in Washington's long-running effort to force the federal government to keep its promises. And it could be temporary, should the U.S. Department of Energy pursue and win a reversal.

Our hope is that the DOE will let the federal judge's decision stand. Too many tax dollars already have been wasted on this and two other ongoing lawsuits — dollars that ought to have been applied to the cleanup.

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# Start: Yanks add Pavano, Wright, Johnson to rotation

## START, FROM BACK PAGE

"I call it the new Mets because this organization is going to a different direction, the right direction, the direction of winning," Beltran said.

Across town, the Yankees were still stunned from last October, when they not only lost to Boston in the AL championship series but became the first team in major league history to take a 3-0 lead in a best-of-seven series and lose.

Revamping their shaky starting staff, New York signed free agents Carl Pavano and Jaret Wright, then acquired five-time Cy Young Award winner Randy Johnson from Arizona for Javier Vazquez, minor leaguers and \$10 million.

In his first day in town, the Big Unit got into a confrontation with a television cameraman following him in the street. Johnson apologized the next day, but the tension will only increase when the games start for real and owner George Steinbrenner starts belaboring on the back pages.

"I know that the demands will be a little higher," Johnson said. "If I go to a bad movie and the actor gets paid \$20 million, I'm thinking, 'Wow, what was that all about?'"

Boston, trying to win back-to-back titles for the first time since 1915-16, added David Wells and Matt Clement to replace Martinez and Derek Lowe, who signed with Los Angeles, and stole shortstop Edgar Renteria from St. Louis. The Dodgers brought in outfielder J.D. Drew and shipped Shawn Green to Arizona, trying to rebound from a 111-loss season. Under new owner-



After their ALCS collapse, the Yankees acquired five-time Cy Young winner Randy Johnson.

ership, the Diamondbacks spent \$45 million on third baseman Troy Glaus and \$33 million on pitcher Russ Ortiz.

Seattle, which lost 99 games, took first baseman Richie Sexson from the Diamondbacks for \$50 million and third baseman Adrian Beltré from the Dodgers with a \$4.6 million deal.

Anaheim, which tasted success when it won the 2002 World Series, also made some moves. Owner Arte Moreno renamed the franchise the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, even though it's about 30 miles from Tinseltown, and brought in shortstop Orlando Cabrera and outfielder Steve Finley.

Florida, coming off the 2003 World Series title, missed the playoffs last year and went into the market to sign first baseman Carlos Delgado and pitcher Al Leiter.

Sammy Sosa was another big name to move, accepting a trade to the Baltimore Orioles from the Chicago Cubs, where he had worn out his welcome after bolting early on the last day of last season.

Even with Sosa, it's hard to envision the Orioles overtaking New York and Boston in the big-money AL East.

"All the problems I had in Chicago, it's in the past. What happened, happened," Sosa said. "Just like a marriage, sometimes you just have to get a divorce. We're all smart guys. We know it was time to move on."

Roger Clemens, 42, coming off his record seventh Cy Young Award, made news by staying put. After saying for the second straight offseason that he intended to retire, he signed an \$18 million contract with Houston, the highest salary for a pitcher in baseball history. The Rocket helped the Astros come within a game of their first World Series appearance and remembered being honored at halftime of a Houston Texans game in November.

"You got 60,000 people chanting, 'One more year!' That stuck with me," he said.

Bonds, who won his seventh NL MVP Award last year and raised his home-run total to 703, will be missing from the field for much of spring training, following knee surgery last month. The San Francisco Giants expect him to be ready for Opening Day, when he

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American League					National League				
TEAM	PITCHERS/CATCHERS	POSITION PLAYERS	FULL SQUAD	WORKOUT	TEAM	PITCHERS/CATCHERS	POSITION PLAYERS	FULL SQUAD	WORKOUT
Angels	Feb. 16/17	Feb. 21	Feb. 22	Feb. 22	Diamondbacks	Feb. 16/17	Feb. 21	Feb. 22	Feb. 22
Orioles	19/21	23	25	25	Braves	17/18	22	23	23
Red Sox	17/18	21	22	22	Cubs	16/17	21	22	22
White Sox	16/17	21	22	22	Reds	15/17	21	22	22
Indians	17/19	22	24	24	Rockies	17/18	22	24	24
Tigers	17/18	21	22	22	Marlins	17/19	20	22	22
Royals	19/20	24	25	25	Astros	17/18	23	24	24
Twins	20/21	25	26	26	Dodgers	18/19	23	24	24
Yankees	15/17	20	22	22	Brewers	19/21	25	27	27
Athletics	19/20	23	24	24	Mets	16/18	21	23	23
Mariners	16/17	21	22	22	Phillies	17/17	22	22	22
Devil Rays	17/18	22	23	23	Pirates	17/18	22	23	23
Rangers	16/17	21	22	22	Cardinals	16/19	22	23	23
Blue Jays	19/20	24	25	25	Padres	18/19	23	24	24
					Giants	17/18	22	23	23
					Nationals	15/17	20	22	22

SOURCE: Major League Baseball

AP

resumes his quest to overtake Babe Ruth (714) and Hank Aaron (755).

Many teams, especially those with relatively low revenue, made few big moves. Pittsburgh Pirates owner Kevin McClatchy,

surveying all the spending, was migratory and wants change when the current labor deal expires after the 2006 season.

"I don't know what happened, maybe they drank some funny water," he said, "but they all de-

cided they were back on the bingie."

AP Sports Writers Joel Anderson in Houston, Jeff Labrecque in Boston, David Ginsburg in Baltimore, Alan Robinson in Pittsburgh, Joseph White in Washington and Steven Wein in Miami contributed to this report.

# Clemens' return gives Astros renewed hope of contending

BY JOEL ANDERSON

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Astros were on the cusp of descent from playoff contender to league doormat.

With the offseason departures of Carlos Beltran, Jeff Kent and Wade Miller, the Astros seemed headed for the bottom of the NL Central a year after falling a win short of their first World Series.

But just as he did in his first season with Houston, Roger Clemens came through when it mat-

tered most. Clemens agreed in late January to come back for another year at \$18 million — the highest salary for a pitcher in baseball history, bolstering Houston's hope that it can at least match last season's playoff run.

"Literally to me, with Clemens we go from a second-tier club to a

first-tier club," Astros manager Phil Garner said.

"First tier means you can compete with the top three clubs. You can be one of the top three teams."

Reliever Brad Lidge said: "It instantly makes us feel like a contender. People play at such a high level when he's around."

Regardless, the Astros will be hard pressed to match last season.

Beltran came to Houston from Kansas City in a midseason trade

and Garner took over for Jimmy Williams after a midseason swoon left them 44-44. Those acquisitions, combined with the remarkable year by Clemens, gave the Astros quite a boost.

Houston won 36 of its final 46 games to clinch the NL wild card, beat Atlanta to win its first ever playoff series, then came a few outs from defeating St. Louis in the NLCS.

Shortly after the disappointing finish to the season, the Astros dealt with their first big loss of the offseason: longtime general

manager Gerry Hunsicker resigned and turned over the job to his protégé, Tim Lincecum.

From there things got worse. Kent signed with Los Angeles and Beltran left for the New York Mets. Right fielder Lance Berkman tore up a knee playing flag football at a church function. Miller, a promising but injured pitcher, was let go.

The Astros were particularly hurt by the loss of Beltran, whose extended negotiations cost the Astros a chance to go after other free agents.

Clemens

# Lady Bison slow Fauntleroy to become division champs

BY RUSTY BRYAN

Stars and Stripes

HANAU, Germany — Mannheim clinched the Division II girls regular-season championship with a 29-26 victory over Hanau on Friday night largely because S'nita Camps wasn't afraid to take the fight to one of Europe's best players.

"The taller they are the harder they fall," the 5-foot-7 Camps said after her drives to the basket in the final 2:30 of the game fouled out Hanau's 6-0 All-Europe scoring star Katisha Fauntleroy and helped the Lady Bison hang on for the title-clinching victory.

"She did that on her own," said Mannheim assistant David Brown after Camps' aggressive play induced Fauntleroy, who had scored six of her team's final eight points and 18 on the game, to pick up her fourth and fifth fouls within a 36-second span with 2:30 to play.

That bit of freelancing, however, was the only deviation from a Mannheim game plan of deliberate play against an athletic Hanau team. The rest of the time, the Lady Bison worked the ball carefully in building an 18-12 half-time lead they rode the rest of the way.

They were able to do so because of the efforts of Camps and Jessica Green in fronting Fauntleroy.

"I wasn't nervous," Camps said of the task of taking on Fauntleroy. "I was just trying to make sure she didn't get the ball."

## Girls basketball roundup

Nyesha Green handled the scoring chores for Mannheim, canning 15 points on 5-for-9 shooting from the floor and 4-for-4 from the free-throw line.

Mannheim, which was to host Ramstein on Saturday in an inter-divisional game, still has a Division II game left on the schedule, Friday night at Bitburg. But even if the Lady Bison lose that game to the four-time defending European D-II champs, they hold the head-to-head tiebreaker against Vilsack, the only other team with a chance to finish the season with just one D-II loss. That came by two points at Mannheim on Jan. 15.

Coach Adrian Crawford, who in three seasons has brought Mannheim from 2-10 in Division II to this season's perfect 6-0 league mark, praised all his players.

"I can't say enough about the way they executed tonight," he said.

In other games of note Friday and Saturday:

### Alconbury claims Div. III-North title tiebreaker

At Brussels, Belgium, Alconbury pulled out a 31-30 victory on Friday and took a 43-17 verdict Saturday to slip atop Division III-North.

Keisha Hunt, with 12 points and 10 rebounds on Friday and 17 points and 10 rebounds on Saturday,

and Christina Arredondo, 11 points and eight rebounds on Friday and 10 points on Saturday, allowed Alconbury to tie London Central for the league lead with 4-2 records.

But even though the teams split their head-to-head games, Alconbury wins the points-differential tiebreaker. London Central won 40-39 in overtime Jan. 21, and Alconbury prevailed 43-27 the next day.

Alconbury's road sweep consigned Brussels, which entered the weekend with a league-leading 3-1 mark, to third place.

### London Central makes its bid

At High Wycombe, England, Kelsey Anderson steered London Central to the Division III-North title with Alconbury.

Anderson scored 20 points and pulled off 10 steals in Friday's 37-18 victory over Menwith Hill, and came back in Saturday's 34-20 win to post 14 points and five steals.

The sweep left the Bobcats with a 4-2 league record, tied with Alconbury, but the Dragons claimed the points-differential tiebreaker.

### K-town topples defending champ Lakenheath

At Kaiserslautern, Germany, the Lady Raiders got 10 points from Lynndsey Hyter and eight points and 17 rebounds from Bianca Gerena-Perez on Saturday for a 42-27 rout of Lakenheath.

The Red Raiders, coming off a 42-32 home victory Friday over



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Hanau's Emily Morris, center, tries to slip Mannheim's S'nita Camps, right, and Jessica Green on Friday. Mannheim won 29-26.

Heidelberg, improved to 10-2 overall and 4-0 in the D-I race, one-half game ahead of International School of Brussels (11-3 and 4-1) in the standings and one in front of Lakenheath.

The defending European Divi-

sion I champs fell to 8-4 overall and 4-2 in D-I. Kaiserslautern will play at Würzburg on Saturday to close out its regular and D-I seasons.

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: bryan@mail.estrpes.odm

# Hanau boys top Mannheim to secure Div. II title

BY RUSTY BRYAN

Stars and Stripes

HANAU, Germany — Hanau outscored Mannheim 18-5 over the first 6½ minutes of the game Friday night en route to a 56-5 victory that wrapped up the Division II regular-season crown.

"That was our No. 1 plan," said Hanau sophomore Jeremy Marshall, who led all scorers with 22 points. "We wanted to come out and play hard and get the early lead."

Marshall, who canned a pair of treys in the opening eight minutes, and was four-of-seven from beyond the arc for the game, also wielded the dagger that finished Mannheim with 4:43 to play.

After a Mannheim run had cut what had been a 20-point deficit in half with 7:08 left, Hanau unleashed a 9-0 run, capped by a Marshall three-pointer, over the next 2:25 to turn back the rally.

"Coach [Tim Smith] told us to do that," Marshall said of the decisive fourth-quarter. "He told us to hit some shots to stop their momentum."

Marshall's backcourt mate Malcolm Lane added 16 points and Cameron Warner 12 for Hanau, which is 6-0 in D-II confer-



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Hanau's Malcolm Lane, right, snatches a rebound away from Mannheim's Khal Brown on Friday. Hanau won 69-56.

ence play with just Friday's game at SHAPE left on the league schedule. Even if the Panthers should drop that contest,

they hold the head-to-head edge over the only other possible one-loss team, Mannheim.

Mannheim, which suffered its first league loss, was led in scoring by Jamal Womble with 17 and Ricky Gardner with 10, but both were unable to score during Hanau's initial 18-5 run.

The Bison, who played Ramstein of Division I in an interdivisional game on Saturday, close out their D-2 and regular seasons Friday night at Bitburg.

In other games of note on Friday and Saturday:

### Bobcats nail down III-North crown

At High Wycombe, England, London Central swept visiting Menwith Hill 44-40 and 55-42 on Friday and Saturday to clinch the Division III-North crown.

David Marbury and Danny Melville continued to lead the way for London Central, 5-1 in league play and 9-3 overall. Marbury had 17 points and nine rebounds on Friday and 14 points on Saturday, while Melville posted 14 points and 11 rebounds on Friday and 15 points on Saturday.

London Central closes out its regular season with a home-and-home series against Div. I Lakenheath this Friday and Saturday.

### Kaiserslautern wins fourth straight

At Kaiserslautern, Germany, the Red Raiders got 14 points from Julian Smalls and 13 from Quentin Strawder and downed Lakenheath 68-33 Saturday for their fourth straight victory.

K-town (10-2 overall, 2-2 in D-I) was coming off a 58-56 overtime victory at Heidelberg on Friday. Strawder forced the extra period by converting a pair of free throws with five seconds to play in the non-conference game between the two powers.

### Ansbach splits with BFA

At Kandern, Germany, the Ansbach Cougars of Division III broke even on a trip to Black Forest Academy of Division II, rebounding 59-43 on Saturday after losing 61-50 on Friday night.

All-Europe forward Russell Bailey enhanced his status for another All-Europe selection with 26 points on Friday and 27 more on Saturday.

The Cougars, whose only losses this season have come to D-II schools, were tuning up for a home-and-home showdown on Friday and Saturday for the III-South championship. On Friday Ansbach (9-3, 6-0) will host Bamberg, unbeaten in III-South going into the weekend, and then journey to Bamberg on Saturday.

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: bryan@mail.estrpes.odm

## Boys basketball roundup







# Time running out

## Lockout could become strike if NHL imposes salary cap next season

By IRA PODELL  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Instead of celebrating All-Star weekend in Atlanta, the NHL is staring at a deadline that will spell doom for the season.

If there's no agreement between the league and the players' associations before the end of the weekend, commissioner Gary Bettman is expected to cancel a season that never started — a season that would be at the All-Star break by now if it had.

"I don't know what he's waiting for," Los Angeles center Sean Avery said.

The league and the players' association kept to their word Friday and didn't reach out to the other side.

Representatives from several teams told The Associated Press on Friday they had not yet been given word or warning from the NHL to get ready for the cancellation of the season. They do expect notification before such action is taken.

Bettman already has the authority to cancel the season. He hoped to make a deal this weekend that would allow for a 28-game schedule and a full 16-team postseason.

So the hockey world keeps waiting — nothing new at all in the five-month lockout that so far has wiped out \$24 of the 1,230 regular-season games. That number won't officially grow before Tuesday because of the All-Star break.

But this weekend will be anything but joyous. Barring a radical change in the philosophical positions of the sides regarding a salary cap, no deal will be reached and no hockey will be played.

The NHL then would gain the distinction of being the first major North American sports league to miss an entire season because of a labor dispute.

And if the atmosphere doesn't improve, the stale-



Motor City's Sean Avery skates with the puck against Port Huron in a United Hockey League game Friday night. Avery, who plays for the Los Angeles Kings, scored two goals as the Mechanics won 3-2.

mate could stretch well into next season — that is, if the NHL doesn't impose its salary-cap system through the courts. If that course is taken, then this season's lockout likely would turn into next season's strike while the NHL tries to reopen with replacement players.

"Our position has been very consistent throughout that the possibility of unilateral implementation and the use of replacement players, potentially, next season, was not something that we were planning and not something that we were focused on," NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly said Thursday. "Our 100 percent focus was on negotiating a new agreement."

But Daly said many options would have been considered if a negotiated deal can't be reached.

# Raich wins slalom as championships enter last weekend

By ANDREW DAMPF  
The Associated Press

BORMIO, Italy — Austria's Benjamin Raich put together two steady runs and won the slalom race Saturday for his fourth medal of the Alpine World Ski Championships, moving ahead of Bode Miller on the medals table.

Raich also won gold in last week's combined race, silver in the giant slalom and even claimed a surprise bronze in the super-G.

Miller straddled a gate midway through his second run and fell, and did not finish. In the two races Miller did complete during these championships, the American won gold in the super-G and downhill.

Saturday's race concluded the individual portion of the championships. Only Sunday's event, in which Raich and Miller were expected to participate, remained.

"It was a great day, a good slalom, perfect," said Raich, who is second to Miller in this season's overall World Cup standings.

"This is crazy, I can't believe it."

Raich has been suffering from the same flu that has affected several other skiers here.

"I'm too weak to properly enjoy it," he said. "This victory is giving me my strength back, though."

Leading after the first leg, Raich covered the Stelvio course in a two-run combined time of 1 minute, 41.34 seconds.

Fellow Austrian Rainer Schoenfelder took the silver medal, finishing 0.24 seconds behind.

Local favorite Giorgio Rocca of Italy was third, 0.74 back, for his second medal here after also taking bronze in the combined.

Raich, who leads this season's World Cup slalom ranks, set up his victory with a superb first run.

"Having a low bib number helped me," Raich said of the first leg, "because the slope deteriorated almost immediately in certain stretches."

Raich's fellow Austrian, Manfred Pranger, second after the first run, fell just a few gates into his second leg, opening the way for Raich to cruise to victory.

Raich won the opening slalom this season in Beaver Creek, Colo., on Dec. 5 and was the bronze medalist in the event in the 2002 Olympics. He finished fourth in the slalom in the 2003 worlds and won silver in the 2001 edition.

In sharp contrast to Miller's make-or-break style, Raich has reached the upper echelon of skiing this season by posting consistently high results. While he only races select downhills, Raich — like Miller — is capable of skiing each event.

His versatility was on display last week when he won the combined, considered by many experts as the toughest test in ski-



Double gold medalist Bode Miller stands along the slalom course after crashing out in the second run of Saturday's race in the Alpine World Ski Championships.

ing, consisting of one downhill run and two slalom legs.

Miller, who leads Raich 1,093 points to 998 in the overall World Cup standings, has only completed one of eight slaloms this season, winning the night race in Sestriere, Italy in early December.

He was attempting to become the first man to win in all five disciplines in the world championships after taking the giant slalom and combined titles in 2003 and the two speed titles here last week.

Miller switched ski brands before this season and has improved in the speed races while struggling in slalom, once a specialty.

Several top skiers did not finish their first runs Saturday, including defending world champion Ivica Kostelic of Croatia, who missed a gate near the end of his leg.

Finland's Kalle Palander, the 1999 slalom world champion, went out in the same section as Kostelic after posting split times that would have placed him among the leaders.

Immediately after Palander's run, course workers spent several minutes rearranging the snow where he and Kostelic went out. "Palander was funnier after his exit, thrashing gates with one of his poles in frustration."

"I am really angry at that depression right after the gate where I skied out," Palander said.

Kostelic said: "I cannot figure out why they did not decide to water it."

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# Despite struggles, Melo shows signs of hope

BY EDDIE PELLIS

The Associated Press

DENVER — There are no bootleg videotapes of Carmelo Anthony signing autographs, no police reports documenting him reading books to schoolchildren, no breathless eyewitness retellings of him raising money for charity.

Those are the kinds of things the second-year Denver Nuggets star spends a lot of time doing, but gets very little attention for these days. They are the kinds of things he hopes he's remembered for off the floor once his career hits full bloom.

This season has been mostly a struggle for the 20-year-old.

Three coaches, myriad nagging injuries, 40 percent shooting and a handful of embarrassing moments have a way of wearing you down.

At one point earlier in the season, Anthony tried to separate himself from his troubles by pretty much ignoring anyone who wanted to point them out. But with the All-Star Game here next weekend — Anthony won't play in the game but will be a big part of the festivities — he has abandoned his me-against-the-world attitude and is trying to accentuate the positive.

"You're by yourself. You get lonely. You say, 'Since nobody's with me, forget about them,'" Anthony said. "But then I realized things aren't that bad. I had to change that mentality. Now, I've got to be happy."

Despite his detractors, there are signs Anthony will overcome this trouble — or that maybe he already has.

Jerseys with his name on them accounted for three of the five biggest sellers during the holiday shopping season. At the NBA Store in New York and online, apparel with Anthony's name trailed only that carrying the



Denver Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony (15) drives against Minnesota Timberwolves center Michael Olowokandi on Wednesday. Anthony has a more positive outlook during his second season in the NBA.

names of Tracy McGrady, Shaquille O'Neal and Stephon Marbury.

"A great accomplishment, a great honor," Anthony says. "It shows there are people out there who like me, who care for me."

He recently got engaged to MTV VJ La La Vasquez, who often sits courtside at Denver home games. She, as much as anyone, has helped him come to grips with the trials and travails of being famous.

"You just have to learn not to take things personally," she said.

"You have to realize that you're like everyone else — they have some bad days, some problems. Only when you have them, people see that, and you just have to accept that that's part of the deal."

Anthony is a charity and community workhorse in Denver, a city that has been in search of a sports superstar since John Elway retired from the Broncos six years ago.

Anthony has held Christmas parties for charity. He has a candy bar named for him, and

proceeds from those sales go to charity. He chipped in \$30,000 to buy a specially equipped van for a kid with spina bifida and more than \$200,000 to various nonprofit organizations around Colorado.

He wrote a kid's book, "It's Just the Beginning," to tell his story — a poor kid from inner-city Baltimore growing up, getting a scholarship, winning a national title at Syracuse and making the pros. The list goes on.

"He's from a close-knit community and he appreciates community," said Anthony's agent, Calvin Andrews. "That's one of the first things he did when he got to Denver — he looked at the marketplace to see what efforts he can get behind."

He still has that sweet, soft smile that shows hints of a disarming innocence, something all too uncommon in the NBA these days.

He is not polished and packaged a la LeBron James, the player with whom he'll always be compared. He tells it like it is, does things the way he wants, and while sometimes that makes his agent and friends cringe, it also may explain his immense popularity among fans — many of them young — who buy his jersey and who have made his shoe, the Carmelo 1.5, one of the best sellers as well.

"People love Carmelo because he's a real person, a person who does good things and a person who makes errors," Andrews said. "There may be some negatives in the corporate boardroom. But for the average person who's a fan, they understand where he's coming from."

Since his NBA career began 1½ years ago, Anthony has been coached by Jeff Bzdelik, Michael Cooper and, now, George Karl.

At first, the hiring of Karl, known as a disciplinarian, didn't seem like a fit for Anthony. But

the Nuggets have thrived under the new coach — they won five of their first seven games after his Jan. 28 hiring — and Anthony has improved his shooting to 46 percent in those games.

The basketball part of the equation is the least of his worries.

"That will work itself out," he said. "I know what I'm capable of doing on the court. My fans know. It's going to happen."

Of course, not being able to play in the All-Star Game in his home city is a disappointment. But while others might have taken the snub as an excuse to get out of town for a few days, Anthony insists on being involved and has a two-page itinerary of events to attend.

"He understands why he's not in the All-Star Game, but he's not bummed out at all," Vasquez said. "He's excited for the players who made it. He knows he's going to be there in the future."

Denver is his town now. When he got here and turned the Nuggets into a playoff team in one short season, he got a taste of what it's like to be loved in Colorado. This season, the negatives have come out more than the pluses, from Denver's sub-.500 shooting so far to a bar fight in New York to somehow showing up on a DVD that warned witnesses against working with Baltimore police.

Still, kids walk around town wearing their powder-blue No. 15 jerseys, and his face shows up on billboards and TV commercials. A second-half comeback the Nuggets were 3½ games out of the final playoff spot (on Friday) and another trip to the playoffs would be great, though Anthony feels good about the future despite how this season started and regardless of how it ends.

"In my mind, all the positives so far have outweighed the negatives," he said. "Maybe not in everybody's mind, but in my mind, for sure."

# Mariners' Sexson cited for driving under influence

The Associated Press

VANCOUVER, Wash. — New Seattle Mariners first baseman Richie Sexson was cited for drunken driving last weekend after being stopped for speeding.

Sexson, who signed a \$50 million, four-year, free-agent contract with Seattle in December, was stopped on Friday, Feb. 5 near his Clark County home.

Linda Dozoretz, a spokeswoman for Sexson, confirmed late Friday that he was stopped for speeding and was later "charged with driving under the influence."

Dozoretz said in a statement that Sexson was not impaired "based on the two Breathalyzer tests he later took." She said she was confident the charges would be amended.

Sexson entered a plea of not guilty on Wednesday, according

to court records.

Clark County sheriff's Deputy Gregory Chaney said he initially stopped Sexson for speeding, according to two television reports. The deputy estimated Sexson's speed in excess of 50 mph in a 35 mph zone.

The deputy said in his report that he suspected Sexson was intoxicated after noticing a "strong odor of intoxicants emitting from the driver's window," and seeing an opened six-pack of beer bottles in the back seat of the car.

According to the report, Sexson refused to take a portable breath test at the scene and then failed a series of field sobriety tests. An hour later, Sexson took two breath tests at the sheriff's office, both times registering below Washington's legal intoxication threshold.

The sheriff's office said in a statement late Friday that Sexson submitted two breath samples and was then cited for DUI, but the statement did not provide the

results of those breath tests.

"It is our understanding Richie was originally stopped for driving over the speed limit," Mariners spokesman Tim Herly said, adding that the team was told Sexson "took and passed two Breathalyzer tests."

A career .271 hitter with 200 home runs, the 30-year-old Sexson injured his left shoulder last season with Arizona and didn't play after May, batting .233 with nine homers and 23 RBIs.

## Referee in German soccer scandal charged with fraud

BERLIN — The referee who took bribes to fix German soccer games was arrested and charged with fraud Saturday, and investigators said more people and matches could be involved than previously thought.

Robert Hoyzer was charged with eight counts of fraud, prosecutors said. The 25-year-old has admitted rigging four games in re-

turn for \$85,000 from a gambling syndicate led by three Croatian brothers, who have been arrested.

He tried to manipulate two other games without success, and in one game his help wasn't needed.

Investigators said Hoyzer may not have told them about other matches rigged before 2004.

## Agassi upset in SAP Open

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Seventh-seeded Jürgen Melzer upset No. 2 Andre Agassi 6-3, 6-1 in the quarterfinals of the SAP Open.

Top-seeded Andy Roddick dropped the first set to Thomas Enqvist but recovered to advance with a 3-6, 7-6 (6), 7-5 victory.

## Sports briefs

Sexson, confirmed late Friday that he was stopped for speeding and was later "charged with driving under the influence."





# Suns can't get past Sonics in battle of West's best

The Associated Press

**PHOENIX** — The Seattle SuperSonics are reminding everyone that they're a force in the West, too.

One night after beating Sacramento at home, the Sonics went to Phoenix and knocked off the Suns 113-105 on Friday night.

Ray Allen climbed out of an awful shooting night with 14 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter and Seattle had seven players in double figures in the showdown of division leaders.

**NBA roundup**  
 Rashard Lewis scored 23 points, going 4-for-7 from three-point range, and Antonio Daniels had 20 in the Sonics' fifth win in a row.

Vladimir Radmanovic added 13, Jerome James and Luke Ridnour had 12 apiece, and Reggie Evans had 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Seattle improved to 9-2 against the top six teams in the NBA.

"The main thing tonight was to control the tempo and not try to get into a run-and-gun game with this team," Seattle coach Nate McMillan said. "We took our opportunity when we had it to push the ball, but for the most part I thought our halfcourt execution was good. This was a big win."

Amare Stoudemire scored 32 points, and Steve Nash had 25 points and 14 assists for the Suns, who lost for the second time in five games but only the 12th time all season. Quentin Richardson added 20 points — going 6-for-13 from three-point range —

and Shawn Marion 14 points and 10 rebounds.

**Wizards 94, Clippers 91:** Gilbert Arenas scored 14 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter, and Antawn Jamison hit a four three-pointer in the final minute, leading host Washington.

Arenas reached the 30-point mark for the ninth time in 14 games and was again the catalyst in the final period as the Wizards held firm in a tight finish to sweep their four-game homestand. Jamison then all but settled the matter with a three-pointer that broke a 90-90 tie with 45 seconds remaining.

**Rockets 91, Pacers 83:** At Indianapolis, Bob Sura scored 17 points and Houston won its sixth straight game, holding Indiana to a single point in the final 7 minutes.

After trailing by 15 points, Indiana rallied to tie it at 82, with Reggie Miller hitting two three-pointers. But the Pacers missed their final 12 shots as the Rockets pulled away in the closing minutes.

**Heat 97, Bobcats 87:** Shaquille O'Neal had 32 points and 12 rebounds to lead visiting Miami to its fifth straight victory and ninth in 10 games.

**76ers 106, Raptors 91:** At Toronto, Allen Iverson had 30 points and eight assists to help Philadelphia end a two-game losing streak.

Kenny Thomas added 21 points and eight rebounds, and rookie Andre Iguodala had 16 points and eight rebounds. Jalen Rose had 23 points for the Raptors.

**Spurs 101, Nets 91:** Tony Parker scored 17 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter, and visiting San Antonio took over



Phoenix Suns guard Steve Nash, right, fools Seattle SuperSonics forward Nick Collison with a pass behind his back on Friday night.

after Bruce Bowen got New Jersey's Vince Carter so angry that he picked up a second technical foul with 9:45 to go.

Carter, who scored 43 points on 14-for-24 shooting, became so enraged after tangling legs with Bowen after missing a jumper that he screamed at the Spurs' forward and walked menacingly toward him with 9:45 left.

**Celtics 111, Knicks 94:** At Boston, Ricky Davis scored 25 points, Paul Pierce had 17, and Raef LaFrentz added 15 points and 14 rebounds to help Atlantic Division-leading Boston (26-25) move above

.500 for the first time since Nov. 12.

New York dropped its 14th game in 16 tries to fall to 3-18 in 2005 and 19-31 overall. Stephen Marbury scored 31 points, his fifth straight game with 30 or more.

**Nuggets 106, Cavaliers 101:** Little Earl Boykins scored 18 of his 20 points in the second half for visiting Denver to overshadow another Carmelo Anthony-LeBron James matchup.

Boykins, the Nuggets' pesky 5-foot-5 guard, helped the Nuggets overcome a 35-point performance from James. Last season, Boykins, who twice played with Cleveland, scored 18 points — all in the second half — as the Nuggets spoiled James' home debut as a pro.

**Grizzlies 88, Trail Blazers 82:** Stromile Swift scored 23 points, and Mike Miller added 22 for host Memphis in its third straight victory and sixth in seven games.

Zach Randolph led the Trail Blazers with 26 points and 12 rebounds.

**Hornets 111, Warriors 108:** At New Orleans, Rodney Rogers scored 20 points, and Bostjan Nachbar had 19, leading New Orleans to its 10th victory in 50 games this season.

Derek Fisher led Golden State with 23 points.

**Jazz 100, Timberwolves 82:** At Salt Lake City, Carlos Boozer answered criticism from Utah owner Larry Miller with 21 points and 11 rebounds, and Andre Kirilenko had 20 points and 10 rebounds.

Boozer, whose toughness was questioned publicly by Miller earlier in the week, had his 22nd double-double of the season but first in more than two weeks.

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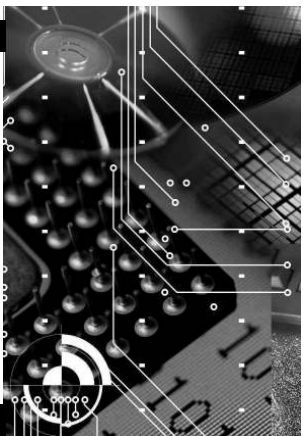


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Phil Mickelson prepares to putt on the eighth hole of the Poppy Hills Golf Course during Friday's second round of the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am. Mickelson shot a 5-under 67 Friday to reach the midway point of the tournament at 15-under 129, breaking the tournament's 36-hole scoring record by two strokes. Mickelson, who won in Phoenix last week, has a four-shot lead over Canadian Mike Weir.

AP



# Running away

## A week after romping in Phoenix, Mickelson pulling away at Pebble

The Associated Press

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Despite two dozen victories on the PGA Tour and one memorable major, Phil Mickelson wound up in new territory through two rounds of the Pebble Beach Na-

### Golf roundup

tional Pro-Am. This is the first time Lefty has had at least a share of the 36-hole lead in consecutive weeks.

And he has never led by this much.

"It's different. But I enjoy it," Mickelson said Friday afternoon after a 5-under 67 at Poppy Hills, which gave him another tournament record and, more importantly, a four-shot lead over Mike Weir.

After a course-record 62 in the opening round at Spyglass Hill, Mickelson threatened to turn the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am into a runaway with five birdies on his first nine holes to build a six-shot lead.

He was even par the rest of the way in light rain that fell over the Monterey Peninsula, but that was still good enough to finish at 15-under 129 and break the 36-hole tournament record by two shots.

Weir birdied the last three holes for a 67 at Pebble Beach, leaving him at 11-under 133. Andrew Magee had a 68 at Spyglass, while Kevin Sutherland (70) and Paul Goydos (68) were at Pebble Beach and wound up at 9-under 135.

Mickelson shot 60 in the second round last week in Phoenix, then closed with rounds of 66 and 68 for a five-shot victory, the largest margin of his career. In his last 11 rounds dating to the Bob Hope Classic, he is 53 under par.

### Wilson leads in New Zealand

AUCKLAND, New Zealand — England's Oliver Wilson shot a 4-under 68 on Saturday for a one-stroke lead over countryman Miles Tunnickiff heading into the final round of the New Zealand Open.

Wilson, seeking his first European tour title, had a 17-under 199 total on the Gulf Harbour course. Tunnickiff shot 70 Saturday.

Sweden's Niclas Fasth, the second-round leader, shot a 75 to drop four strokes back.

### Japan, Scotland share lead

GEORGE, South Africa — Catriona Matthew and Japan's Rie Ikeda combined for a 4-under 69 playing alternate shot to help Scotland share the lead with Japan after the second round of the Women's World Cup on Saturday.

At 6-under 140, Scotland and Japan were a stroke ahead of Italy, which was atop the leaderboard with Canada after the first round. South Korea was two shots behind after Jeong Jaeger and Bo Bae Song ended a 5-under 68.

The American team of Meg Mallon and Beth Daniel was three back following a 74. They shared that spot with Laura Davies and Karen Stupples of England (74), and Karrie Webb and Rachel Hetherington of Australia (75).

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## SPORTS



On All-Star weekend, both sides waiting for commissioner to cancel season, Page 39

Spring training 2005

## Red Sox start over

Boston will open camp seeking first repeat since 1916

BY RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

**T**he trophy has toured New England, the prized possession of the Boston Red Sox, who finally ended The Curse.

As spring training camps open next week from Vero Beach, Fla., to Peoria, Ariz., there are 29 teams ready to knock off the remarkable Red Sox.

"We have a slogan around here: 'Any group of schlemiels can win once,'" Red Sox President Larry Lucchino said. "We've got to win more than once."

A lot has happened since Keith Foulke flipped the famous ball to Doug Mientkiewicz for the final out at Busch Stadium last Oct. 27, giving the Red Sox their first World Series title since 1918. The fallout continues: The Red Sox and Mientkiewicz, traded this month to the New York Mets, still haven't figured out who owns that special sphere.

When Boston last defended the title, baseball sunk to a low. The White Sox won the AL pennant as the Red Sox dropped to sixth place, and Chicago then lost to Cincinnati 5-3 in the best-of-nine World Series. Afterward, eight White Sox players — the notorious Black Sox — were banned for life for throwing the Series at the behest of gamblers.

Baseball has different problems these days. Barry Bonds, Jason Giambi and Gary Sheffield start spring training under unusual scrutiny, with the federal investigation of illegal steroid distribution still hanging over them.



The Boston Red Sox, who won their first World Series title in 86 years by coming back from a 3-0 deficit against the New York Yankees in the ALCS and then sweeping the St. Louis Cardinals in the Series, turned around and signed shortstop Edgar Renteria, above, away from the Cardinals. The Red Sox also added pitchers David Wells and Matt Clement as replacements for Pedro Martinez and Derek Lowe.



Washington Nationals shortstop Cristian Guzman puts on his new uniform during a news conference in Washington on Feb. 2. Though the deal to move the Montreal Expos was almost done in by city politics, Washington will field a major league team for the first time since the Senators became the Texas Rangers after the 1971 season.

Players and owners have agreed to more frequent testing for steroids and harsher penalties, but the deal still hasn't been put in writing.

"As a sport, we have done everything that we could at this point," Commissioner Bud Selig

said. "There are immediate penalties, random testing, a player gets publicly named if, heaven forbid, he does test positively."

That deal isn't the only new thing this spring. There's even a new team. After years of trying to move, the Montreal Expos fi-

nally did. After 36 years in Quebec as Les Expos, the team was reborn in December and christened the Washington Nationals, the first Major League Baseball team in the nation's capital since the expansion Senators became the Texas Rangers after the 1971 season.

"It'll be fun to go down to spring training and see all of the new faces and put on the new uniforms and stuff," closer Chad Cordero said.

Bought by the other 29 teams before the 2002 season, the franchise remains under control of the commissioner's office, and a sale to new owners is unlikely before Opening Day. That meant general manager Jim Bowden, who took over from Omar Minaya, didn't have much to spend.

Other teams lavished fortunes on free agents during the offseason, with Minaya making the biggest splash. Adding a Latin flair to New York's No. 2 team, he lured three-time Cy Young Award winner Pedro Martinez from Boston for \$53 million over four years, then signed Carlos Beltran to the biggest contract of the offseason, a \$119 million, seven-year deal that convinced the All-Star center fielder to leave the Houston Astros.

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**Kings upset by officiating at end of second straight game**

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**Raich wins men's slalom in worlds; Miller crashes during second run**

Page 39



**Complete wrapup of DODDS hoop, wrestling from this weekend**

Pages 36-38



Pedro Martinez was lured away from Boston by the New York Mets, who signed the three-time Cy Young Award winner him to a four-year, \$53 million deal.

